

September 2006
vol. 77 Issue 9

www.fasny.com

TM



the VOLUNTEER Firefighter

The Official Publication of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

THE PRESIDENCY
DECIDED BY VOTE

Also Inside
Man's Best Friend
Are We Super?
Hurricane Drill

FASNY TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Every New York Responder Goes Home

By now, most of you have probably heard *something* about the new safety series sponsored by FASNY and VFIS that is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006 and continue into spring 2007.

In case you haven't, beginning in September 2007, FASNY and VFIS have once again partnered to bring you the culmination of the past three years of road safety; a class called "Every New York Responder Goes Home." This three-hour course is a review of three previously-offered courses ("Highway Safety for Emergency Services Personnel," "Rollover Prevention," and "Intersection Safety"), and introduces a new component: "Personal Operated Vehicle Safety for Emergency Personnel." Each **depart-**

ment in attendance will receive a training kit that includes nine CD-ROMs/DVDs (nine total pieces) that encompass **all** of the training materials for **all four** class components. Each department will then have the necessary tools to return to their organization and pass on the information.

This course is appropriate for ALL emergency services providers, and is approved for two OSHA credit hours. This class will take place in every volunteer county in New York State.

Due to the nature of this class, FASNY and VFIS are limiting the number of attendees to five members per department.

September 2006

Lewis County:	September 12	Copenhagen FD, Copenhagen, NY
Sullivan County:	September 13	Loch Sheldrake FD, Loch Sheldrake, NY
Orange County:	September 14	Walden FD, Walden, NY
Fulton County:	September 19	Perth FD, Amsterdam, NY
St. Lawrence County:	September 20	Hannawa Falls FD, Hannawa Falls, NY
Cayuga County:	September 20	Throop FD, Auburn, NY

October 2006

Niagara County:	October 11	Frontier FD, Niagara Falls, NY
Columbia County:	October 11	Chatham FD, Chatham, NY
Erie County:	October 12	Millgrove FD, Alden, NY
Allegany County:	October 19	Cuba FD, Cuba, NY
Otsego County:	October 25	Worcester FD, Worcester, NY
Jefferson County:	October 26	Glen Park FD, Watertown, NY



Go to www.fasny.com and follow the "Training" link for further information about these classes.

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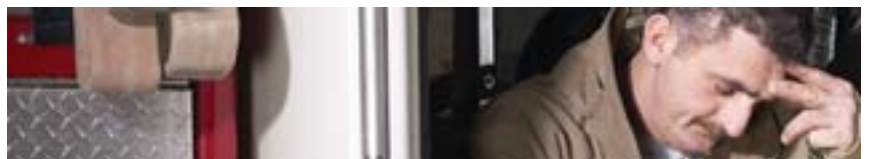
If you couldn't be there, you can see what happened at this year's Convention.



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PRESIDENT'S message

Adult Daycare – It's Exhausting

by Michael P. Wutz
FASNY President

The National Alliance for Caregiving, a non-profit coalition of national organizations focusing on issues of family caregiving, including caring for our seniors and handicapped citizens, estimates that there are 23 million households in the United States involved in caregiving.

An estimated four million of these residents are provided for in their own homes.

As caregivers, there is such a lack of knowledge about how demanding and consuming these duties become that we fail to realize the inordinate amount of time spent on

caring for our loved ones. The lack of self-awareness and loss of self to the needs of the recipient is hazardous to our own health. The constant and ongoing act of "being there" for someone, and having no time for yourself, brings on physical illnesses such as high blood pressure, stroke, weight fluctuations, heavy alcohol consumption, depression, and even heart attack. There are several studies indicating that the constant and

causing stress on caregivers is often the cause of premature death.

Are you or any of your family members in this predicament?

There is a large range of services for adults and handicapped people who need a protected environment and a trained staff. This type of social and physical stimulation frequently improves the patient's behavior while giving much-

needed flexibility and time off to the homebound caregiver.

Day care programs are an underutilized resource because many families do not understand how these services are provided.

There are several models of care, two of which being the social model and respite care model. Each service gives the patient many things to do, including exercise, music, arts and crafts, nutrition, daily tours, and special events, among many other activities. You and your family should take the time to research the service that is best for your loved ones. As our generation gets older, these services will become more necessary as the availability of a full-time facility may take three to six months for the admittance process to be completed.

Today's caregivers are pioneers. Examples of how previous generations managed the care of their older or handicapped loved ones are few and far between, as today's generation is the longest-lived generation in history. Because of advances in technology, many of today's adult population will live up to 20–25 years longer than just a couple generations ago, even with any health problems they might encounter.

If you are a caregiver, ask for help, and seek those community resources that will assist you with one of the most difficult tasks you will undertake in your middle years—the care of our aging loved ones.

Best always.



Convention 2006 has come and gone. Thanks go to the Onondaga County Convention Committee, who executed a very well-planned week, and to the membership of FASNY for allowing me to be elected president. I will do my utmost in moving this association forward in all phases for the betterment of the volunteer fire service.

I would like to welcome David Jacobowitz as FASNY second vice president, and John Lasek, Kenneth Pienkowski, and Brian McQueen as new FASNY directors. More "thank you"s go to board retirees John Dugan and Ed Sendlenski for their many years of service as directors. Welcome to all the new committee members, and "thank you" to past committee members for their many years of service.

Our pledge to the State Chiefs and Fire District officers is to continue, together, our services to all the volunteer firefighters of this great state. Our work is never done. Safety and survival is goal one.

NVFC Supports LOSAP Tax Clarifications

Congressmen Peter King (R-NY) introduced legislation on August 2 that would clarify the treatment of length of service award programs (LOSAP) in the federal tax code. LOSAPs are pension-like programs for volunteer emergency services personnel. Nearly 20 percent of the volunteer firefighters in America participate in some form of a LOSAP.

The treatment of LOSAPs in the existing tax structure is ambiguous at best, and hasn't been updated legislatively since 1996. In 2002, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) formed a LOSAP Committee to examine current law and come up with ideas for clarifying how LOSAPs are to be taxed. The NVFC then worked closely with Congressman King and other fire service groups to develop HR 6027.

"This legislation is crucial for the volunteer fire and emergency services," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "LOSAPs have no clear place in the current federal tax structure. This creates problems for states and communities that want to provide LOSAPs for their volunteers but face unnecessary complications in setting up programs. For this reason, LOSAP participation is lower than it otherwise would be, and the programs that do exist are more difficult to administer."

One problem is that while a LOSAP account will show on paper how much money has accrued for a beneficiary, many plans are actually unfunded. This is because the payment would be considered taxable in the year it was made if it were guaranteed to an individual. Because of this discrepancy, many LOSAPs are bookkeeping accounts that go unfunded until a beneficiary begins drawing from the account. Even plans that are funded are not portable and are vulnerable to creditors should the plan sponsor declare bankruptcy.

The point of a LOSAP is to provide participants with a financial benefit after they reach a certain age and length of service. As with pension plans, a LOSAP should be taxed when a beneficiary begins drawing from it, not each year when a payment is made into the LOSAP account. HR 6027 would fix this problem.

"HR 6027 does not create any new programs or government spending," Stittleburg said. "It does not decrease or eliminate taxation of LOSAPs or force any new requirements on existing LOSAPs. This bill simply

clarifies how LOSAPs should be taxed, giving volunteer emergency service organizations and state and local governments a clear legal framework to administer their LOSAP internally."

Another major change that HR 6027 makes is to increase the limit on how much can be contributed into an individual's LOSAP account each year from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The \$3,000 limit was established in 1996 and has not been increased since. The bill also creates a mechanism for adjusting the \$5,000 limit based on inflation.

"I'd like to thank Congressman King for introducing this important piece of legislation," Stittleburg said. "I urge all NVFC members and supporters of the volunteer fire and emergency services to contact their representative and ask them to co-sponsor HR 6027."

Some of the other changes that HR 6027 would make include:

- Clarification that in any given year, a LOSAP sponsor can contribute more to a volunteer's LOSAP plan than it pays that individual for volunteering. Limiting contributions to 100 percent of pay makes sense for traditional pension plans—an employer wouldn't contribute more to an employee's pension plan than the employee makes in wages. But most volunteers receive little or no direct compensation for their services and the LOSAP contribution would be their largest benefit.
- Allows non-governmental LOSAPs to be treated as governmental. Some volunteer emergency service organizations are technically separate from a local governmental unit. These organizations typically have a very structured agreement with the local governmental unit that defines their ability to serve the community. By treating these organizations as governmental for the purposes of LOSAP, it exempts them from Employee Retirement Income Security Act vesting and funding requirements that are unrealistic for plans the size and scope of a typical LOSAP.

— submitted by James Ryan



Peter Casey

Legislative Committee Chair • 1774 Military Road -40 • Buffalo, NY 14217-1043



NVFC Creates Fund to Aid Firefighters

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has established a fund to aid individual volunteer firefighters, EMS personnel, and their families who have been impacted by disasters, including hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes. The NVFC Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Support Fund, working through state fire associations, identifies volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel who are seeking assistance. The fund provides stipends of up to \$250 for assistance to these volunteers to meet essential needs during the aftermath of a disaster.

The fund was created in 2005 in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated areas in the Gulf Coast region. The NVFC wanted to help volunteer firefighters who had been impacted by the hurricanes, many of whom lost their homes and belongings. The fund was later permanently established to assist volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel in the wake of any disaster.

Volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel in need should contact James Williams, New York State Director to the NVFC, at (607) 336-1540 (home), (607) 226-4160 (cell), (607) 336-5248 (fax), or jwilliams5@adelphia.net (email). Voicemail is available on both the home and cell phones.

All chiefs are simply asked to type a letter (on department letterhead) listing the names, mailing address, and department affiliation of the people who sustained damage, including the chief's signature certifying the authenticity of the memo. I will then collect all of these letters and forward them to the NVFC for payment. That's it ... very simple!

If you have any question, feel free to give me a call.

USFA Reports 115 On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities in 2005

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) released its annual firefighter fatality report for 2005, identifying 115 on-duty firefighter deaths last year. Seventy-one of the fatalities were volunteer firefighters.

In 2003, the USFA adopted a broader definition of what constitutes a line-of-duty death, including firefighter deaths resulting from heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of engaging in strenuous activity while on duty. As a result, the number of officially-recognized line-of-duty deaths has increased in the past two years. However,

using the pre-2003 standard, the number of line of duty deaths in 2005 would be 99, which would be the lowest since 1998.

"Each year when this report is released, we reflect on the tragedy of the lives lost, and grieve for the families whose lives will never be the same," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "The NVFC and others are working to significantly and steadily reduce the number of firefighters killed each year in this country. There is no better way to honor the memory of those who have fallen."

Stress and overexertion continues to be the single largest cause of firefighter deaths, taking 62 lives in 2005. This category includes firefighter deaths that are cardiac or cerebrovascular in nature, such as a heart attack or a stroke. Vehicle collision caused 25 deaths—the next highest number.

To help reduce the number of firefighter deaths from heart attack, the NVFC launched the Heart-Healthy Firefighter program in 2003 with the release of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Kit and free cholesterol testing at emergency services trade shows. The program has since expanded to include the Fired Up for Fitness Challenge and the Heart-Healthy Resource Guide. The Heart-Healthy Firefighter booth travels to fire service trade shows across the country to offer free health screenings for risk factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose, as well as other features such as cooking and fitness demonstrations. For more information about the program, visit www.healthy-firefighter.org.

PSOB Final Rules Published

NVFC Director of Government Relations David Finger reported that the final PSOB rule has been published. We now have to wait 30 days before BJA can start processing Hometown Heroes claims. By the time you read this, the 30-day period should be expiring and the BJA will start to honor the claims. The final rule publication was in the Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 154, dated August 10, 2006.

Until next time, be safe and everybody goes home.



James H. Williams

NVFC New York Director • 116 Hillview Court • Norwich, NY 13815-1005

Recognize and Treat Heat-Related Problems

With the oppressive heat and humidity we have been experiencing recently, it is hard to imagine that we will very soon be experiencing cooler and even cold temperatures, with snow and icy conditions. However, it is imperative that we know the signs, symptoms, prevention, and first aid for heat-related conditions that affect everyone, but, most importantly, the very young and elderly.

When the body is unable to cool itself by sweating, several heat-induced illnesses such as heat stress, heat exhaustion, and the more severe condition of heat stroke can occur and possibly result in death.

Factors leading to heat stress are:

1. High temperature and humidity.
2. Direct sun or heat.
3. Limited air movement.
4. Physical exertion.
5. Poor physical condition.
6. Some medicines.
7. Inadequate tolerance for hot workplaces.

Heat Related Stress

Signs and symptoms of heat-related stress are heat cramps and muscle contractions, usually the muscles of the calves.

Treatment includes rest, drinking water, and a getting to a cool environment.

Heat Exhaustion

Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion are severe thirst; muscle weakness; nausea; vomiting; fast, shallow breathing; irritability; headache; increased sweating; cool, clammy skin; paleness; dizziness; fainting; and moderately increased body temperature of 101–102°.

Treatment includes rest, drinking water, ice packs, and moving to a cool environment. Severe exhaustion requires intravenous fluids, especially if vomiting occurs, to prevent dehydration.

Heat Stroke—A Medical Emergency

Heat stroke can occur even in people who are not exercising if the weather is hot enough.

Signs and symptoms are warm or hot, flushed, dry

skin; little or no sweating; usually high body temperature of 105–106° or higher; may be delirious; decreased responsiveness; unconsciousness or having seizures; severe throbbing headache; weakness; dizziness; difficulty breathing.

Treatment includes reducing body temperature quickly with ice packs, intravenous fluids for hydration, getting the person to hospital as soon as possible.

Prevention

1. Know the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses; monitor yourself and co-workers.
2. Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
3. Be sensible about exertion in hot, humid weather.
4. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
5. Stay well hydrated. Drink water or sports drinks (Gatorade, etc.). Water is best and is more readily available, and drink a lot of it: about 1 cup every 15 minutes.
6. Use cooling fans or air conditioning, rest regularly.
7. Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or heavy meals.

OSHA has a reference card available for printing from its Web site www.osha.gov. This is a handy, useful tool for people who are not medically oriented. Later in the fall, we will discuss the problems, signs, symptoms, and treatments related to excessive cool and cold temperatures.

It is time for the 13th annual Fire Prevention Essay Contest flyer to be printed and sent to all schools in New York State. I encourage all school administrators, teachers, and fire chiefs and personnel to obtain these flyers and encourage students in grades five–eight to participate in this program. It is a most useful, worthwhile tool to test and determine the success of fire prevention programs presented in the community and schools. Everyone needs to encourage all schools and students in these grades to participate. Fire prevention is only as good as the lessons we teach our youngsters and upcoming generations. Contest applications will be available to all schools and can be found on FASNY's Web site, www.fasny.com.



Robert F. Hintz

Fire Prevention and Life Safety Vice Chair • 9752 Cottage Road • South Dayton, NY 14138-9744



Presidency Decided by Election

Saturday afternoon of FASNY's 2006 Convention saw the first contest for an elected office in many years. John R. Dugan, Jr., of Borodino (Onondaga County) was nominated from the floor to run against Michael P. Wutz of Williamsville (Erie County) for president of FASNY. Mike was finishing his term as first vice president, and John was concluding his second term as director. The nominations were made on Thursday morning during the opening session of the 134th annual Convention. The two candidates had a low-key campaign until the polls opened at noon on Saturday.

The election procedure was monitored by observers from both sides. Harry M. Barrett of Loch Sheldrake, Anthony J. Bosco, Jr., of Ossining, K. William Grant of Canton, and John P. Tucker of Cortland had been previously appointed by President Ed Carpenter, Jr., to serve with the secretary of the Association as election inspectors. In accordance with the FASNY by-laws, all five inspectors submitted a signed oath to "...faithfully execute the duties of inspector at such meeting with strict impartiality and according to the best of his or her ability." The voting began at noon, and by 12:30 p.m. almost everyone had cast their ballot.

When the polls closed at 2:00 p.m., 401 members and delegates had made their decision. Michael P. Wutz was elected to a two-year term as the president of FASNY. Both candidates pledged to support FASNY's mission and vision.

The registration of members and delegates is critical, so before the election itself begins, the duties of the secretary include the "...responsibility for supervising the registration of members entitled to vote, and issuing voting cards, ballots, or other like documents, should a vote or election be called at any meeting." For the past several years, Sandra Dugan has been the registration supervisor at the Conventions. Debbie Finnegan, Betty Grant, and Sharon Ryan are the registration specialists who work on Sandy's team. As in the past, and hopefully for many years to come, the "office of the secretary" did a magnificent job in registering the more than 850 members, delegates, guests, and other attendees. Registration was fast and efficient, and done with charm and amazingly good humor. There were just over 725 voter credentials issued during the three days of Convention, with 55 percent of the eligible registrants voting.

Elections may no longer be a rarity for



FASNY officials set up and discuss the details of the election process.



Secretary Michael Whelan announces Michael Wutz as the winner of the election.



Michael Wutz graciously accepts the position of president and thanks his opponent John Dugan.



Convention Necrology

Individual Members

continues throughout Convention highlights

- Albany County**
- Scott Knickerbocker**
Onesquethaw Vol. Fire Co., Inc.
- Thomas V. O'Hare**
S. W. Pitts Hose Co., Inc.
- Albert Spawn**
Westmere Fire Dept., Inc.
- Allegany County**
- James H. Jackson**
Andover Fire Dept.
- Mark Sharp**
Clarksville Fire Co.
- R. Dow Stannard**
Dyke Street Engine Co. # 2
- Gertrude Storms**
Friendship Fire Dept., Inc.
- Carlton Wood**
Bolivar Fire Dept.
- Broome County**
- Richard Miller**
Ouaquaga Fire Co.
- Cattaraugus County**
- Claude Bridenbaker**
Little Valley Vol. Fire Dept., Inc.
- Marion Horton**
East Randolph Fire Co., Inc.
- Ralph Wuethrich**
Kinney Hose Co., Inc.
- Cayuga County**
- Anadello Cecchini**
Throop Fire Dept., Inc.
- Chautauqua County**
- Oscar Brandquist**
Sinclairville Fire Co. #1, Inc.
- Columbia County**
- Dan Hilton**
Elizaville Pumper Co., Inc.
- Peter Hotaling**
A. B. Shaw Fire Co.
- Cortland County**
- Francis J. Quinlan**
Cortland Fire Dept.
- Charles R. Wilson**
Hitchcock Hose Co. # 6
- Erie County**
- C. Robert Allenbach**
Exempt Firemen's Assn. of Getzville
- Norman Bobenread**
Brighton Vol. Fire Co. # 5, Inc.
- Donald Brumley**
Sheridan Park Vol. Fire Co. # 1, Inc.
- Peter Coppola**
Brighton Vol. Fire Co. # 5, Inc.
- Richard Czajka**
Doyle Vol. Hose Co. # 2
- Arthur Ellsworth**
Grand Island Fire Co., Inc.
- James J. Gaiser**
Grand Island Fire Co., Inc.
- Joseph S. Gnojek**
Spring Brook Fire Co., Inc.
- Michael Gorlewski**
Sloan Active Hose Co. # 1
- Frank Kozlowski**
Doyle Vol. Hose Co. # 2
- Irvin J. Lorch**
Hutchinson Hose Co.



Chief Richard Gimbl emotionally thanks everyone for his Firefighter of the Year honor.



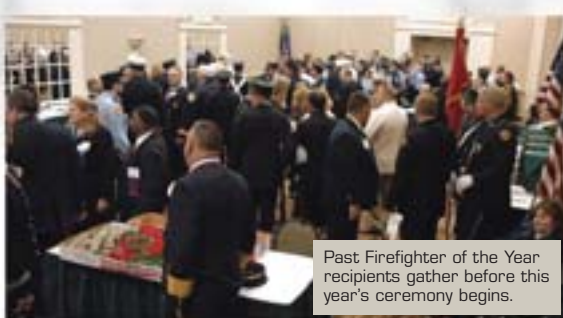
President Carpenter presents Chief Gimbl with a medal of honor.



First Vice President Michael Wutz presents Chief Gimbl with a plaque.



President Ed Carpenter and Elliot Spitzer enter the ceremony.



Past Firefighter of the Year recipients gather before this year's ceremony begins.



Chairman Roger Putnam announces Holbrook Fire Departments Chief Richard Gimbl as Firefighter of the Year 2006.



The future of firefighting looks on.



Applause for Chief Richard Gimbl.



Chief Richard Gimbl addresses the crowd.

- Seth Norton**
Barnard Exempt Firemen's Assn, Inc.
- Leonard S. Peri**
Point Pleasant Firemen's Assn, Inc.
- Louis Saltrelli**
St. Paul Boulevard Fire Assn
- Arthur Sheeler**
Mendon Fire Co.
- Anthony Stirone**
Egypt Fire Association, Inc.
- Frank Tirabassi**
West Henrietta Fire Dept., Inc.
- Art Urckfitz**
Penfield Fire Co., Inc.
- Nassau County**
- Thomas M. Abramski, Sr.**
Hempstead Fire Dept.
- Eugene V. Calvelli**
Port Washington Fire Dept.
- J. Robert Combs**
Woodmere Fire Dept., Inc.
- Laborio S. D'Angelo**
Island Park Fire Dept.
- Richard Denby**
Stewart Manor Exempt and Benevolent Association
- Vincent M. DeNicolo**
Hewlett Fire Dept.
- Frank DiGaetano**
Westbury Hose Co. # 2
- Anthony DiMartini**
East Meadow Fire Dept. Ladder Co. # 2
- Neil Goodwin**
Friendship Engine and Hose Co.
- Theodore Jackson**
The Vol. and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association of South Hempstead, Inc.
- Joseph Janca**
Hicksville Protection Hook and Ladder Co. # 1
- James Kennedy, Sr.**
Westbury Fire Dept.
- Carl Lidstrom, Jr.**
Westbury Fire Dept.
- John Mahon**
Mineola Fire Dept. Co. # 2
- James Martino**
East Meadow Hook and Ladder Co. #1
- Michael P. Meade**
Great Neck Alert Engine, Hook and Ladder and Hose Co. # 1
- Stanley Moskal**
Glen Cove City Fire Dept.
- Rajesh Ochani**
Albertson Hook and Ladder, Engine and Hose Co. # 1, Inc.
- George L. Sakowich**
New Hyde Park Fire Dept.
- Charles Seaman**
Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Dept.
- Thomas J. Slabowski**
East Meadow Vol. and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association
- Thomas A. Small, Sr.**
Glenwood Hook and Ladder, Engine and Hose Fire Co.
- Lee T. Strickland**
Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Dept., Co. # 4
- Joseph F. Treccasi**
Defender Hose Co. # 1
- Niagara County**
- Alfred Fritton**
South Lockport Exempts Assn
- Gordon L. Haseley**
Shawnee Exempt Vol. Firemen's Benevolent Association
- Edward Litz**
South Lockport Exempts Assn
- Donald Luff**
Wilson Fire Co. No 1, Inc.
- Rick D. McHenry**
Niagara Fire Co. # 1, Inc.

Dog Wakes Girl Who Then Saves Family From Fire

A pet dog and an eight-year-old child were credited with saving their family after an early morning fire broke out in their home at 53 Greenhills Road in South Huntington on Thursday, August 3.



article and photos
by Steve Silverman





Huntington Manor volunteer firefighters responded to the 4:14 a.m. alarm and found the family safely evacuated. The rear of the home and the deck were engulfed in flames.

Katarina Scholz, a special-needs eight-year-old girl, was awoken in her bedroom by Daisy, the family's two-year-old pet Bull Mastiff. Katarina saw the fire and ran to wake up her parents, Paul and Teresa Scholz, and her brother, Jake, 4. They safely fled the house unharmed before flames engulfed the rear of the home, including Katarina's bedroom.

The Huntington Manor Fire Department, assisted by the Melville and Huntington fire departments, responded with a total of 75 firefighters using seven pieces of apparatus, and had the flames under control within a half-hour. Huntington Manor Fire Chief Dane Martin led the units in their efforts. The Huntington Community First Aid Squad and Greenlawn Fire Department stood by. Due to the high heat and humidity, firefighters were doused and given water to keep them hydrated after battling the blaze.

Firefighters rescued another of the family's dogs from the fire, however, two



others perished in the blaze. The fire heavily damaged the first and second floor rear of the house, and the rest of the home sustained smoke and water damage. The Suffolk County Police Arson Squad is conducting an investigation as to the cause.





ATTENTION

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HOMETOWN

Weber Agency

The recent United States Fire Administration report on line-of-duty fatalities for 2005 brought to mind the many firefighters I have known who are gone forever. The report lists 115 firefighters who lost their lives last year while performing their noble calling. The average age was 47—much too young for which to have a funeral.

by Charles Angione

Too Many

Funerals

The youngest was 18. I was reminded of the many firefighters' funerals I have attended—too damn many!

The first one I ever went to was for Steve Tobias in 1972. His head had struck the inside of the cab when the pumper he was driving hit a hidden pothole while responding to an alarm. The head trauma eventually proved fatal. He was 37. There was a ceremony at the firefighters memorial outside the central headquarters station. Father Long, the fire department chaplain, gave a very moving eulogy.



Charles Angione, former Operations Chief for the City of Plainfield (NJ) Fire Department, is the author of *Days and Nights of Fire*. The decorated 25-year line veteran is a National Fire Academy alumnus and a

longtime incident commander of note. Send your comments or requests for his book (now available for purchase online at www.ebay.com) to chiefops@enter.net or write the author at PO Box 37, Pen Argyl, PA 18072.

“Steve has responded to his final alarm,” he said to the long line of firefighters standing at attention. “He died performing his duty to mankind, doing the work that he, and that many of you here, choose to do.”

A full line-of-duty funeral is tough to take without choking up. The flag-draped coffin, the slow tolling of the bell, the line of saluting firefighters, and the solemn presentation of the flag to the widow ... it is unbelievably sad.

There were others who died much too young. Tom Finnerty, a newly-promoted deputy chief, contracted lung cancer when he was in his thirties. Of course, the years of sucking up various superheated poisons at fires had nothing to do with this non-smoker's condition. At least that was what we were told.

I had always believed that no matter how fine a man you were, there had to be somebody who didn't like you. I can honestly say I never heard a bad word from anyone about Tommy. He was, perhaps, the most universally-liked firefighter I have ever known. He was, first of all, a true decorated hero. He was also a quiet, almost shy, leader of men who led by example.

When I first came on the job, Tommy was a decorated first-class firefighter who had already earned a reputation for fearlessness, intelligence, and innate decency. He went on to rise quickly through the ranks and was promoted to lieutenant in five years and then to captain two years later. I was a lieutenant working on his shift when he was acting deputy chief. I made captain shortly after his permanent promotion to deputy. He was sick with cancer at the time, which had spread to his lymphatic system. When he succumbed a few months later, Tommy left a young wife and two small children. I was chosen to replace him on Platoon 2 as acting deputy chief. His was a tough act to follow.

Then there was my closest friend, Frank Leahy. Frank was the recipient of a bronze star for heroism in Vietnam. We started on the job the same day and went through basic training together. Assigned to the same engine company for five years, we fought all kinds of fires together while making probie mistakes and learning the job. We shared good times and bad. In the early days, we raised hell together and, later on as family men, our two families also became best friends. I looked at Frank as a true brother.

When he died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 42, I returned home that evening, told Joan that I had lost my best friend, and we both wept.

In preparing for Frank's funeral, we went through all his things but couldn't find his Meritorious medal. Frank never wore this prestigious award, our department's second highest (you had to be dead to win the Medal of Valor). So just before the public viewing, I pinned my own Meritorious medal on his dress uniform.

Since Frank was a widower whose lovely wife, Carol, had died of cancer a year earlier, his death made orphans of his two small boys, Ryan and Shawn. As acting chief of department at the time, I officiated at the funeral, presenting the flag to the kids and saluting them. God, it was sad.

Things were never quite the same for any of us after Frank's death. The boys, of course, had it the hardest. They had lost both of their parents within a couple years. It was very tough on them for a while, but, thank God, they had a good second family to care for them. Frank had willed their custody to his in-laws: Carol's sister, Linda, and her husband, Norm, who had two older children—cousins that the boys worshipped. Under the tragic circumstances, it was the best possible environment anyone could have hoped for. We kept in touch. Both boys grew to be fine young men. Frank and Carol would be proud.

I have attended line-of-duty funerals for many firefighters from other departments as well. Les Hendricks was a deputy chief and 35-year veteran of the nearby Union Township Fire Department. Union was the town in which I grew up and lived for 40 years. Les and I had gone to grammar school together. He was subjected to a lethal exposure of a deadly chemical during a working fire. He went down at the fire, was transported to the hospital, and was released in a couple days. A week later he was dead.

Captain Kenneth “Red” Feeney, a 60-year old veteran from the City of Elizabeth, suffered a fatal heart attack while leading his company in a search and rescue at a multiple-alarm arson fire. When someone dies in an arson fire, it is literally murder.

Heart attacks remain the number one killer among on-duty deaths. There were 55 fatal heart attacks among the LODDs last year, which amounted to 48 percent of all

firefighter deaths. The men on Red's company said that the heart attack followed a partial building collapse in which he'd pushed one of the younger firefighters out of the way, taking the main force of the falling debris. Red Feeney took good care of his men, and they loved him as they would a father.

I thank God that I have been fortunate enough to never have lost one of my people at an incident and I am truly thankful for that. Neither have I lost a civilian at any incident I commanded who, in my opinion, was alive when we pulled up. I fully realize that luck is in large part responsible for me being able to say this.

There were so many other funerals. While the majority of them that I have attended were for firefighters who died while on the job, many were for retirees. With notable exceptions, firefighters statistically don't enjoy their retirement for very long. The job takes its toll. Years of smoke inhalation (especially before air masks were universally worn) and the terrible physical and emotional stresses are probably among the primary contributing factors.

What firefighter can ever forget the seemingly endless firefighter funerals following the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001? An astounding 341 firefighters perished on 9-11. In addition to those killed at the Twin Towers, however, there were 102 other line-of-duty deaths that year, which brought the total LODDs to 443. No matter where, when, or how, a firefighter can give his life only once, and it really makes no difference if he dies alongside hundreds of others in an historic event or alone in some long dark hallway.

Ironically, I almost never attended wakes or funeral services before I became a firefighter. Something about them spooked me. They seemed terribly primitive, somehow, and made me quite uncomfortable. I would simply never go. When my father died on my 26th birthday, I had attended only two funerals in my life: both for uncles. His was my third. Since being a firefighter, however, I have gotten to know my way around funerals very well, becoming intimately familiar with the protocols. In fact, I have become something of an expert on them. It is because I have gone to just too damn many.



High Gas Prices, Hybrids, and Negative Equity

by John P. Tucker, President
FASNY Federal Credit Union



*people are trading
in their vehicles
at the worst
possible time*

Gas prices are currently higher than \$3 per gallon. While they may go down, it doesn't appear that they will go down much. So, what are we going to do about it? There seems to be three viable options: 1) We can either trade in our current vehicle for hybrid car or sport utility vehicle (SUV) that gets better gas mileage than our current vehicle; 2) Trade in our current vehicle for a regular car that gets better gas mileage; or 3) Tighten our belts and stand pat.

We are getting many calls from people who own SUVs, pick-up trucks, and mini vans who want to trade them in for vehicles that will give them better gas mileage. We advise them to think about it first. Let's examine the options.

Certainly a hybrid car will get much better gas mileage than a sport utility or pick up truck. They are also better for our environment. The problem is that they are thousands of dollars more expensive than their gas-consuming counterparts. Let's say that it would cost \$3,000 more to buy a hybrid car over the equivalent gas car. You can buy a lot of gas for \$3,000. In many cases, it will take five years or more just to break even on the difference between the purchase price of the hybrid vehicle and the amount of money you save on gas. And that doesn't include maintenance costs down the road.

The problem we are seeing is that people are trading in their vehicles at the worst possible time. They are buying the high-gas-mileage cars at a time when everyone else is buying them, thus creating a sellers market. Conversely, they are trading in their low-gas-mileage vehicles when everyone else is doing the same, effectively flooding the market with sport utilities and pick-ups, which creates a buyers market. The problem with this is that most people owe money on their vehicles, and as the value of these gas-thirsty vehicles goes down, they end up owing more on them than they are worth, which creates a negative equity situation. This makes it difficult for the owner to "get out of" the vehicle. In most cases, unless you are willing to put some money down to cover your negative equity, your payment is going to go up. Do you really want to trade a vehicle, take a loss on its value, and have a higher payment, just to get better gas mileage? Not to mention that, in most cases, we need the utility and room in the vehicles we originally bought.

Each case is different. Think about it first. If we can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to contact us.

107 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210 ■ Phone: 518-434-3728 ■ Toll-Free: 866-FASNYCU (327-6928)
Audio Response 1-866-FASNYAR (327-6927) ■ Web: www.fasnycu.com

Suffolk Police Teach Bomb Awareness to Firefighters



article and photos by Steve Silverman

The Suffolk County Police Department recently held an "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings" seminar for the fire service at the Dix Hills Fire Department. This was an awareness course to familiarize firefighters with some items that they might encounter and how to recognize various devices at such an incident. Officers also brought inert samples of bombs, grenades, and other explosive charges. Pictured (below, l to r) are Lieutenant Tom Martorano of the Marine Bureau, Sergeant Matt O'Malley of the Chief of Patrols office, Deputy Inspector Tom Brandon of the Second Precinct, Deputy Inspector

Stu Cameron of the Special Patrol Bureau, Huntington Town Chiefs Council President Joey D'Alessandro of Dix Hills Fire Department, and First Vice President Larry Cavanagh of Eaton's Neck Fire Department. Also pictured (bottom) are some of the bombs, grenades and explosive devices that firefighters might encounter at a terrorist incident.



LAFASNY



Jean Christensen

387 Hillside Avenue • West Saugville, NY 11796



As I now move on to the junior past president's chair, I am overwhelmed with the wonder of the past six years. I so enjoyed being your president and hope that the job I did was everything that you expected.

I wish Kathryn Welton, our new president, a wonderful two years ... it goes very quickly, so enjoy every moment. I will be available for you if you need any help.

"Thank you" to the board for doing a great job and for always being there for me. I will always remember the auxiliary members for their help and kindness. I am especially thankful to the membership for the response we received for donations for the new Firemen's Home. We were able to furnish three rooms—far more than I would have imagined.

I will see you all at the sectional meetings. Stay safe, God bless, and always remain, as you are, true friends.

— Ann LaFountain
Jr. Past President

The Madison County Volunteer Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary held their installation on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at the Georgetown firehouse.

Installing Officer LAFASNY Past President Norma Neville installed the following officers:

- Jeri Rowlingson, Chittenango – President
- Lynne Button, Chittenango – Vice President
- Nancy McMaster, DeRuyter – Secretary
- Patricia Haley, Cazenovia – Treasurer
- Donna Baker, Chittenango – Chaplin

The active auxiliaries now involved in the Madison County Ladies Auxiliary are Bridgeport, Cazenovia, Chittenango, DeRuyter, Georgetown, and Earlville.

The Madison County Auxiliary is looking for department auxiliaries within Madison County to join them. They are also looking for individual members. If you do not



Picture above (l to r) are Lynne Button, Pat Haley, Jeri Rowlingson, Norma (handing Jeri the gavel) and Nancy McMaster.

have an active auxiliary but are a relative of a firefighter in Madison County, you can become an individual member of the Madison County Ladies Auxiliary. If you are interested, contact Jeri Rowlingson of Chittenango. Another summer has come and gone. I hope that everyone enjoyed the heat! This also means that our much-anticipated 58th Convention is over. I hope everyone enjoyed their stay and again I'd like to thank the Onondaga County ladies for all their efforts to make our Convention a successful one. As always there were many surprises and we now have a new slate of officers.

With the school year about to begin, be sure to drive carefully and watch out for the children. Some of them will be distracted by the excitement of making new friends and getting to see old ones, and we want to avoid accidents.

It's also time to start making plans for the coming year. The first auxiliary event is Ann LaFountain's testimonial dinner on September 29 at the Islandia Marriott. If you have any questions, contact Jean Christensen at (631) 589-0594.

On September 30, the Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary will host our sectional meeting at the same hotel. Why not get a group together and come down for the weekend. You can attend the meeting and thank Ann for all her efforts.

After that it's back to Albany for our October 28th meeting.

Tickets will also be distributed soon for the February "auxiliary only" lottery. If your auxiliary doesn't meet every month, make a motion at your next meeting to buy some so you don't forget?

I hope to see everyone at one or both of our sectional meetings and, again, congratulations to our new officers.

— Jane Trombley
One-Year Director

The Westhampton Beach Ladies Auxiliary marched in a parade on Saturday, August 20, to celebrate their department's 75th anniversary, after which they went to the firehouse for an open house to celebrate. They also hosted the August Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association Ladies Auxiliary meeting.

Another Great Convention

Onondaga County did a fantastic job hosting this year's Convention. Ann ran a very successful meeting: donating to the Firemen's Home, presenting 50- and 25-year certificates, and welcoming new members. Each officer described their duties and presented interesting facts and sayings. The past presidents in attendance welcomed everyone. I heard that the boat dinner cruise was great. The clambake at the Spinning Wheel was also fantastic, especially the ice cream bar. I ate way too much and was not sure that I was going to fit into my

Regional Updates

breathing apparatus, they entered the burning building, searched for victims, and found an unconscious male in the doorway of the fire room. The Lynbrook fire chief stated that, "without the determination, persistence, and courageous acts of these two firefighters, the victim would have perished."



Pictured (l to r) is John Alcino of Liberty Mutual Insurance presenting the Firefighter of Year Award to firefighters Kevin Morgan and William Pesek of the Malverne Fire Department.

Sea Cliff Firefighters Receive FASNY Awards

On May 3 at Sea Cliff Fire Department's Installation Dinner, firefighters with more than 50 years of service as volunteers received awards of thanks from FASNY for jobs well done from.



FASNY representatives (l to r) Philip Grella, firefighter John Napoli (50 years), Ex-Captain Warren Griffin (50 years), FASNY representative Ed Sendlenski, Ex-Motor Chief John DiStefano (65 years), and Captain Gene Shortell (68 years). Missing are Ex-Captain Ernest Longobucco (62 years), Ex-Captain Dawson Jay (62 years), Ex-Captain George J. Myles (62 years), Ex-Chief Willet Tilley (60 years), and firefighter Robert Hawes (52 years). The men represented a combined of 531 years of service to their department.

Seminar Announced

The Lieutenant Andy Fredericks (FDNY) Memorial Seminar and Exhibits, hosted by the Elmsford Fire Department, will be held at the Westchester Marriott Hotel, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY, on Saturday, January 13, 2007.

Registration, refreshments and exhibits begin at 7:30 a.m., and the program runs from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The topic "Firefighter Close Calls" will be presented by The Volunteer Firefighter contributor Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder from the Loveland-Symmes (Ohio) Fire Department, and www.firefighterclosecalls.com.

For additional information, contact Assistant Chief Syd Henry via email at shenry@elmsfordfd.com, or by phone at (914) 592-9369, or visit our Web sites www.elmsfordfd.com/seminar.htm and www.liveoakeng.com/seminar.htm.

— submitted by Syd Henry
Elmsford Fire Department Assistant Chief

150 Years of Service to the Village of Ossining

July 23 was a special day in Ossining. The Ossining Fire Department celebrated 150 years of dedicated service. Donald "Dinky" Apostolico, Ralph "Rafty" D'Angelo, and Donald "Danny" Traditi were awarded 50-year certificates by FASNY President (then Vice President) Mike Wutz. The three honorees are members of Ossining Hose Company No 1.



Pictured (front, l to r) are Donald "Dinky" Apostolico, Ralph "Rafty" D'Angelo, and Donald "Danny" Traditi with FASNY President (then Vice President) Mike Wutz.

Apostolico has served as department chief, and D'Angelo and Traditi have served as company foremen.

**Northern
New York**



Jerry Flanders

PO Box 534 • Copenhagen, NY 13626

As you may have read in the August edition of this magazine, the dedication ceremonies for the new Firemen's Home have been postponed. Please look for details in upcoming issues. Our plans for the Northern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association's (NNYVFA) involvement will follow the announcement of the date.

Several FASNY training opportunities have been scheduled for our area. There will be a propane seminar on September 9 at Dexter, and then there will be three opportunities to take the VFIS and FASNY co-sponsored class "Every New York Responder Goes Home:" September 12 at Copenhagen, September 20 at



We would like to welcome the following new members and departments to the FASNY family

Cayuga County

Cayuga Fire Department
William Sherman

Cortland County

Cincinnatus Fire Department
Brandi Armstrong
Edward Monet

Dutchess County

Arlington Fire District
Leslie Carroll

John H. Ketchum Hose Company, Inc.

Maggie Tompkins-Harris

Eric County

Depew Fire Department

Joseph L. Walden, II

Village of Lancaster Fire Dept.

Burt T. Lyon

Essex County

Essex County Office of Emergency Service

Joseph G. Cyphers, Jr.

Keene Valley Hose Company

Dana Lynn Pelkey

Genesee County

Darien Center Chemical Fire Co.

Kris Clark

Jefferson County

Henderson Fire Dept., Inc.

Dale Forrester

Lycoming County

Pennsylvania Firemen's Assn.

James J. McCusker

Montgomery County

Fort Hunter Fire Department

Richard Knudsen

Nassau County

Fire Medic Co. No. 1, Inc.

Brenda Aguirre

Liz Garcia

Drew Hellman

Nathan Kellner

Jacqueline Klein

Kathleen Meyer

Harris Schornstein

Paula Wersan

Wantagh Fire Department

Mary E. Williams

Niagara County

Barker Fire Department, Inc.

Tyler Bachman
James Baker, Sr.
George Brigham, Jr.
George Brigham, Sr.
Wallace Coates
Bruce Devereaux
Jeffrey Dewart
Michelle Dewart
Mary S. Downs
Paul Franke
Darrin J. Haight
John Hald
Laura Harrod
Scott Harrod
Donald R. Hendley, Sr.
Lori M. Hildebrant
Randall Hildebrant
Lee Hoffman
John Ingham
Don Klatt, Jr.
Scott C. Matheis, Sr.
Jon Ormond
Richard Ray, Jr.
Rodney E. Recore
Janice M. Rider
Randolph J. Rider
Brandon L. Sandolini
Alan C. Seib
Andrew Steel
Matthew Wendler
Jeffrey Wick

Onondaga County

Solvay Fire Department, Inc.

Brian Green
Kenneth Handschu
Rachel Wood
Gregory Zacholl

Orange County

Mountain Lodge Park Fire Company, Inc.

Kevin Stewart

Wallkill Engine Company No. 6

Joseph F. Walsh

Orleans County

Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

Lyman Sanford

Rensselaer County

Stephentown Vol. Fire Dept.

Alexander F. Haley

Rockland County

Hillcrest Fire Company No. 1

Bruce Schwartz

The Committee to Promote

Volunteerism in Rockland County Emergency

Robert Salmon

Saratoga County

Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association

Donald Stackpole

Suffolk County

Melville Fire Department

William Schmitt

Susquehanna County

Forest City Area Volunteer Ambulance Association

Maryann Durko McCusker

Ulster County

R. A. Snyder Hose Co. No. 1

Thomas Becker

Saugerties Fire Department

Christopher Brocco

Westchester County

Firemen's Benevolent Fund Association of Mt. Vernon, NY

Edward A. Adinaro, Jr.
Joseph J. Antonaccio
Dominick A. Bartolini
John Battista
Edward C. Baxter
Harvey Bayer
Eugene R. Berry
Richard E. Bertram
John Brandli
George R. Brewster
Richard Brewster
Edward Bruno
Osborne Bryant
John W. Buccheri
William J. Buccheri
Wallace J. Burtis
John P. Cahill
Andrew J. Casucci
Joseph Cerrone
Gregory P. Chapeton
Thomas R. Ciriuncione
Donald Cowen
Eugene De Nota
Albert A. De Simone
Robert W. Dean
William P. Degenhardt
Arthur M. Dupree
William P. Ebeling
T. Vincent Ehrbar
Noah Ellingham
Alfred Englert
Robert P. Englert
Joseph Esposito
John W. Etsch
Thomas A. Faillace
Gary Formes
Edward Fornuff, Jr.
Michael Fraticelli
H. Howard Frey
Anthony Gagliardo
Frank Gagliardo
William N. Gagliardo
John G. Gagnon
Herbert E. Gates
William J. Geberth
John D. Golden
Peter Goodwin
Robert P. Green
Arthur C. Groff
Ernest Hayes
Robert E. Hayes
William A. Heckett, Sr.
Jack Hess, Jr.
Edward M. Hurley
William J. Ianiri
Allen C. Jensen
Carl O. Jensen
John Arthur Jewell
Frederick C. Johnson
Rev. John F. Kassoff
James Kearns, III
Harold Ketcham
Joseph E. Kilshiemer
Paul A. Krechman
James J. Lang
John T. Lang, Jr.
Michael J. Lang
Jon Lattin
Louis J. Lichti
George A. Lloyd
Corrado Luiso
Nicola A. Luiso
Raymond E. Lyons
Robert F. MacFarlane
Robert Magnotta
Arthur W. Mahoney
Paul Malagiero
Robert J. Mandredonia
Frederick C. Marcell, Jr.
Vincent J. Marrano, Sr.
Edward J. Maselli, Jr.
Walter McDonald
Robert H. Midgley
William Midgley
Francis J. Miller
Kenneth A. Miller
Roger E. Miller
Lyman C. Monahan
Leon Murphy
Joseph A. Nardone
Arthur Neyling
Albert H. Northrup, Jr.
George E. Northrup
William J. O'Brien

Arthur Orlando

Anthony R. Pecoraro

John C. Pecoraro

William J. Peggini

John J. Perna

Richard Perry

Charles J. Platt

Arthur Ramhorst

Frank Ramos

George A. Reitwiesner

John W. Roland

Joseph L. Rossi

Anthony Rozzi

Kevin J. Russell

Louis R. Satriale

Harry C. Schuchmann

Edgar G. Schute

Stephen R. Sebesta

Thomas M. Shay

Allan J. Simmons

Alfred E. Smith

Mark Smith

Robert Snyder

Dennis Solano

Fred F. Staehle

Wayne Sternemann

William J. Steven, Jr.

Robert Stiller

Robert Stone

Edgar J. Sturken

William E. Sullivan

Richard Suneson

John E. Travers

Stephen J. Vecchione

Eli M. Vetrano

Charles A. Wagner

Michael Wald

Edward J. Walder

Edward J. Walsh

Robert J. Walsh

Carol Watson

Richard Wolf

Theodore Wrobel

Louis Zuccarelli

Yorktown Heights Engine Company 1, Inc.

Robert M. Blake

Youth Firefighters

Monroe County

Fairport Explorer Post 774

PJ Kolb

Gates-Chili Explorer Post 272

John Balch

David Gharet

Danielle Heffernan

Crystal Skuse

Regional Updates

Senator Young and Murray Hose presented special honors to Joseph Opacinch and Richard Mack for their 70 and 67 years, respectively, of dedicated service. The Senator also presented special ribbons to the honorees.

Week-long activities made the celebration one to remember. Joseph Wisniewski chaired the couple's picnic, Robert Penkaty chaired the golf tournament, Joseph Davis chaired the member's picnic, and Robert Ryczko chaired

the commemorative program book activity.

The WNYVFA proudly salutes Murray Hose Company #4 for their many years of distinguished service and offers our thanks for their past support of the WNYVFA. Congratulations and best wishes for another 100 years of great service to the community.

School starts this month. Please drive safely and protect our children.



And the Winner is...



This issue's photo contest winner is David Brown from the Peru Fire Department. The photo is of a fire in a vacant house that was being remodeled in Port Douglas in the Keeseville, New York fire district. Peru and Au Sable Forks were called in for mutual aid. Peru firefighters John Stafford and Chris Carvajal are manning the hose. The only vehicle to make it even part of the way up the driveway was a four-wheel drive brush truck. A five-inch hose was laid up the driveway and four hoses were laid off of it. David's photo has netted him a cool \$100. Send in your fire-related photos and you, too, could be a winner!

If your fire-related photos are as good as the one pictured here, and would like to try to win \$100 in cold, hard cash (well, it's actually a check), then hit us with your best shot(s). If your photo is judged the best, then you'll win \$100 ... it's as easy as that. If you would like to enter, then send your photo entries (either prints or slides) to:

The Volunteer Firefighter™ Photo Contest
c/o ABC Creative Group
430 E. Genesee St. — Suite 203
Syracuse, NY 13202

Please include an explanation of the subject matter of the photo.

The photo contest is open to all readers of *The Volunteer Firefighter*. 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 or transparencies (slides or larger) and only up to two submissions per month per entrant. Photos must be received by the 10th of the month in order to be eligible for the following month's contest and a S.A.S.E. must be included for return of photos. Judging will be performed by the editorial staff. All entries become property of *The Volunteer Firefighter* and FASNY and can be used in any future issue or for any purpose.



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