



The Chief's Trumpet



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www.nhafc.org

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2010 Firefighter Memorial Service

By Rick Mason

October 10, 2010 marked the fourth annual Firefighter Memorial Day as passed by a legislative act in 2007, sponsored by Representatives Weare (retired Captain, Portsmouth Fire Department) and John DeJoie (Concord Firefighter). This year's service, attended by nearly 250 fire service personnel, friends and family gathered at the New Hampshire Fallen Firefighter's Memorial on the grounds of the New Hampshire Fire Academy. This year's Memorial Service featured remarks from Governor John Lynch, Safety Commissioner John Barthelmes, Manchester Firefighter Andre Biron, and the keynote was Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation (his speech follows in this newsletter on page 7). Concord Fire Chief Dan Andrus did an outstanding job as master of ceremonies for the Service.

This year was a record for the number of honor guards that participated along with the Professional Firefighter's Pipes and Drums. Thanks to Concord Captain Scott Anstey for serving as Honor Guard Commander, Bedford Firefighter Erik Thomas as Deputy Commander, Derry Firefighter Steve Hussey as Honor Guard Commander Ex-Officio, and Hooksett Firefighter Earl Lincoln Memorial Chairman. We were honored with Nashua Fire-Rescue Retired Fire Chief Mike Buxton tolling the bell this year. Thanks to the numerous others who made this event a success!



Upcoming Meetings/Events...

November 18..... Manchester/Londonderry (luncheon)

Note: If you are interested in hosting a meeting, contact the Secretary, Brent Lemire, at btlemlire@comcast.net or by phone at (603) 424-4911 at your earliest convenience.

This is a tentative list and subject to change

Meeting Information...

Manchester and Londonderry to Co-Host November Luncheon Meeting

Chiefs James Burkush and Kevin MacCaffrie will host the Association's first luncheon meeting of the NHAFC on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Yard Restaurant, 1211 South Mammoth Road (Route 28), Manchester and Londonderry (yes the city line runs through the building).

Networking will begin at 11:30 AM in the Garden Room which can be accessed from the rear door of the main building, with luncheon and meeting to follow beginning at 12:00 PM. Guest speaker will be Commissioner of Safety John Barthelmes.

Luncheon will feature a hot buffet with Fresh New England Scrod; Chicken and Mushrooms in Brandy Cream Sauce; Beef or Vegetarian Lasagna; Bourbon Pork Loin; Italian or Swedish Meatballs and Honey and Spice Glazed Chicken.

Clip and mail

November Meeting

Attendees: _____

Department: _____

_____ Lunch (\$23.00 per person incl. tax and gratuity)

Make check payable to: NHAFC. Reservations and payment MUST be received by November 10, 2010.
Chief Kevin MacCaffrie
Londonderry Fire Department
280 Mammoth Road
Londonderry, NH 03053

NHAFC to Sponsor the Crotched Mt. Pageant/Christmas Party

The NHAFC will once again sponsor the annual Pageant and Christmas Party for the residents of the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield on **Thursday, December 9, 2010.**

The pageant begins at 3:30 PM, with dinner at 5:30 PM and delivery of the gifts after the meal.


This event has always touched the lives of any of the members attending and is well worth the trip. The Center is on Crotched Mountain Road, off Route 31 in Greenfield, off Route 101. From the north, take Route 202 to Route 31.

PLEASE, if you are attending, contact Chief Stephen Carrier at Gilford Fire/Rescue, 39 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH, 03249, or by calling him at 527-4758.

See you there!

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Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

September 9, 2010 - Ashland, NH

The meeting was called to order by President Murray at 1843 hours.

Following a salute to the flag and a moment of silence, a quorum was declared.

Host Chief Brad Ober welcomed the members and guests and thanked all for making the trip north.

There were no advocate members present

Chief Lemire stated that the printed minutes of the August meeting were distributed. A MOTION (Christopoulos/DeSilva) to accept them carried unanimously.

Under Communications, Chief Murray stated that he had received a letter from Commissioner Barthelmes requesting a member to sit on the Homeland Security Grant Committee. Chief Wiggin was appointed to succeed himself on that committee.

There was no financial report.

Chief Lemire read the applications in first and second reading. A MOTION (Christopoulos/Carrier) to accept Chief Steven Yannuzzi of Bristol, carried unanimously. The Association welcomes Chief Yannuzzi as its newest member.

President Murray reported that:

- By-law and Strategic Plan are in the process of being finalized. Board of Directors will then have another work session to develop policies.
- Chief Bradley continues to work on Scholarship Committee. The Committee is comprised of Chief Roger Bradley, Chief Scott Wiggin, Chief George Klauber, Chief Steve Carrier Ex-Officio, and Treasurer Marty Carrier.
- NHAFC is working with Primex on their Leadership in Risk Management Forum for Fire Chiefs. This is an outstanding series of forums designed specifically for Fire Chiefs. Primex is currently looking for interested participants. The class is limited to 20 participants. Primex has asked the NH Fire Chiefs to identify some Career and Volunteer Chiefs to participate in the program. We will also be partnering on some stand alone forums with Primex for professional development.

- The fire sprinkler bill (HB1486) is currently in a study committee. Myself, Marshal Degnan, Doug Patch, Rick Wood, Tim Travers, Kevin Breen and Jeff Emanuelson attended a study committee meeting on Thursday September 2nd in Concord. Previously on August 26th Chief Burkish and Chief Sullivan attended the committee hearing with Marshal Degnan and Dough Patch. I want to thank all of these individuals for attending and providing input to this committee. Chief Breen and Deputy Emanuelson from Salem provided outstanding testimony as to the success of sprinkler ordinances within their community and the relationship between the fire service and their planning board. I firmly believe we provided the committee with considerable knowledge to them. Both Kevin and Jeff were in the hot seat for over an hour.
- The Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 7th was cancelled due to a number of people not available. We will reschedule shortly.
- The Board of Directors voted to look into having some of our financial services managed by LGC through the Affiliate Group Services Program Agreement. LGC has asked us to provide them with some specific financial information as they continue to evaluate their ability to provide us with services.
- The Board of Directors voted (7 to 0) to donate up to \$500.00 towards the cleanup and display of flowers for the NH Firefighters Memorial Ceremony to be held on Sunday October 10, 2010 at 2 pm. This is held at the NH Fire Academy. The funds will come out of the donation or contingency account of the association. We will be working with the Memorial Committee to arrange a work party just before the ceremony. I am asking for volunteers to come out and help us spruce up the memorial. I will publish the work party date as soon as I can get a date.
- Director Mason, Chief Klauber, and I attended the 100 Club Annual Meeting on Thursday September 2nd at the Manchester Country Club. The 100 Club provides financial support to families of Police and Firefighters who have suffered a death. The club last year provided over \$122,000 to various police and

Meeting Minutes (continued)

fire families for living expenses and college tuitions. Each eligible child is awarded \$22,000 per year towards their college expenses. Director Mason spoke and thanked the club members for their continued support of firefighters and EMTs.

There were no reports from the 2nd Vice President or the Legislative Committee.

Fire Marshal William Degnan introduced Ron Ansty who spoke on defensible policy on occupancy. Marshal Degnan spoke on the issue of propane odorant not being sufficient for recognition and described the action that his office took to bring this issue to light. They finally received warnings from the vendors that some of the rail cars shipped in may not have had odorant added. They will follow up on this situation and keep tabs on the local companies to track the sources, as there is no way to identify what sources are coming into the state.

Director Mason reported that Sue Prentiss has resigned to take a position at Lakes Region General Hospital and today was her last day. Efforts to replace her have begun immediately. The Fire Standards and Training Commission will be having a retreat to develop long range plans and evaluate current issues. He described training programs being offered at present. He also brought up a situation at the Lakes Region Community College where the Fire Protection program has not been supported as it should be. A letter was written two years ago to the President requesting support but not much has been done. He mentioned that 38% of the graduates of the school are in the program and he requested that a committee be formed to meet with the administration to address these issues. Chief Murray stated that he will appoint a committee very shortly.

Chief Klauber, for the Commission, reported on the change in prerequisites for the Fire Officer program. The problem was brought to the FST and they handled the situation expeditiously to the benefit of the members of the program. He also reported that they are surveying what classes are being offered, what are being cancelled and why. Chief Lyon reminded members that it is important to bring issues to the representatives in order to have them addressed. They are committed to addressing all issues brought to them. They also asked for input via email for the upcoming retreat.

Chief O'Brien reported that there has been no meeting of the EMS boards.

Chief Christopoulos reported that the Advisory Committee on Emergency Preparedness met on September 8 and spoke about the intent to address the definition of critical infrastructure and the program to protect them. He reminded everyone that 80% of the federal money coming in to NH must be sent to the local jurisdiction.

Chief Landry reported that the Code Review Board will meet tomorrow.

NEDIAFC director Christopoulos reported that there were 12 representatives from NH that attended FRI in Chicago with about 90 at the division lunch. Discussion ensued about moving the Division annual meeting to FRI instead of the New England Chiefs' Conference. FRI will be in Atlanta next year. He also stated that the IAFC will be studying the impact of the regional divisions and their interaction with the IAFC, possibly bringing them into the decision making process.

Chief Morrill, for the NEAFC, did not have a report.

Good of the Order:

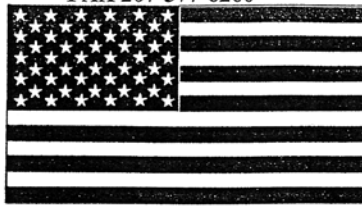
- The next meeting will be in Durham at the *Three Chimneys Inn* and the Candidate's Forum will be between 4:00 and 5:30 pm, with dinner and meeting afterward.
- Chief Murray read the report from Deputy Chief Tom Morrison of Plymouth, our representative to the Manufactured Housing Standards Board.
- Chief Klauber stated that the SAFER grant process deadline is two weeks away. He mentioned that several communities have refused to apply due to long range commitments.

Motion to adjourn at 1936 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Brent Lemire,
Secretary, NHAFC

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Ron DeBlois, president of DRS, is a 20 year veteran of the NH fire service, currently serving as deputy chief of the Hollis Fire Dept, has 25+ years of experience as a licensed PE working on projects for municipal, industrial, and private clients throughout the country and abroad. Ron and his staff work with all applicable fire and building codes to make sure that projects in your town are being done right.

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Memorial Service Address

New Hampshire Fallen Firefighter Memorial

Ronald J. Siarnicki

October 10, 2010

Good Afternoon.

First, let me start by thanking all of you for extending an invitation for me to attend your Memorial Service and speak to all of you. I would like to commend everyone who was involved in the creation of this beautiful memorial site and the service today here at your training academy. You have put forward an outstanding effort and a job well done by all who made it possible. It truly has captured the essence of the fire service and the commitment each of the individuals listed here have made to the state of New Hampshire and their respective communities. It is an honorable site that is filled with fire service tradition representing the courage of firefighters everywhere.

For many of the family, friends and loved ones here this afternoon, there is a basic understanding of what these three words mean. I speak of:

- * Honor
- * Tradition
- * Courage

However, for all emergency responders who have weathered the experience of surrendering responsibility for their very survival into the hands of another, these words will forever transcend any dictionary description.

This first fire service concept, "HONOR" stands as the cornerstone for all that we do.

I believe Andrew Carnegie provided the best prospectus on the concept of honor when he said: "No amount of ability is of the slightest worth without honor." This statement is symbolic in so many of our fire service actions. It is the basis of the fire service's core values. It is foremost witnessed in the way we respect each other. How we choose to respect our officers, how we demonstrate our respect for the citizens we serve, and how we respect the basic code of conduct we have chosen to govern ourselves by.

The second concept "TRADITION" helps us to understand who we are.

It was once stated that: "All of what we have become is a gift of those who have gone before us." In the fire service, more than any other calling I know, our traditions are so much of what we have become. I am sure that those who have gone before us are proud that we have chosen to continue their

traditions – to uphold their long history of service through our actions. There is so much that we can learn from the past and, just as important, ensure there is opportunity to learn from the future.

And finally the last concept "COURAGE."

For, no cause is as noble as saving another's life. No sacrifice is greater than giving your own to do it. That's what firefighters do; perform courageously when ever they are called into action. Something that usually happens during the everyday routine calls when not everyone who responds is expecting it. No matter WHERE firefighters might be, while serving their communities they are thinking of the job at hand and not what fate would hold for them. This being the true essence of the courage that each firefighter possesses as they commit themselves to providing protection to their neighbors.

When speaking on the subject of courage, Teddy Roosevelt once said: "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, then to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much, nor suffer much, because they exist in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat." Roosevelt's words explain why we honor the courage and heroics in our ranks, courage that lives in the hearts of each and every firefighter we know, where it remains undiscovered, until that moment of necessity.

There is one underlining difference between you and I; and the special people whom are listed on this memorial. The fact that they faced that courage – and in that moment, they gave all they could give and fate exacted that ultimate price to fulfill their task at hand. These are individuals who were our family members, our co-workers and our friends. For many of us, this kinship is not so much related in blood, as related in our shared experiences of life.

Much like veterans of war, it is difficult for us to find fitting words to explain the sense of fraternity and family that develops between people who battle the ravages of fire, or risk their safety and well-being to rescue the sick and injured. Whenever I ask firefighters and emergency medical personnel to explain what it is that fosters this sense of camaraderie, like veterans who have served in the trenches,

continued next page

Memorial Service Address (continued)

the usual response is, "I can't explain it, but you've been there – you understand."

I say to you today – as survivors, – as families and friends of these heroes – no explanation is necessary...you live with this – you understand too. It comes natural to all of us in the fire service. It is the basis of our very being. General William Tecumseh Sherman once defined courage as "a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it." I believe this definition withstands the true test for our nation's fire service.

Each of the individuals who we recognized today knew the dangers they faced. Along with each of their families, they accepted that risk. They recognized the hazards and they trained to overcome them. Still, no matter how well we train, we live with the knowledge that as we strive to manage risk, we will never control it...Yet each day, firefighters and emergency medical provider's face that challenge and risk just the same.

Succumbing to the risks that all members of our calling face was not an act of courage for the heroes whose names are forever etched into our memorial markers...NO...their true act of courage was rising – without question – to meet that challenge every single day of their life.

It is that special loyalty to our community that ushers that commitment.

We at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation understand these factors very well, for we see each and every one of the losses that occur yearly within the American Fire Service. Losses that each equate to a real person who has left behind family members, co-workers and friends who must survive without their loved one. That is the reason that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was created and why I am so enthused to be involved with such an honorable and worthy endeavor. An organization that is committed to ensuring our fire service heroes are never forgotten and their survivors are assisted in rebuilding their lives. A congressional mandate placed upon the foundation in 1992 when it was created by the United States Congress to carry out its vital work and efforts to address the issues that result when a Line of Duty Death occurs anywhere in the United States and its territories.

Through the work of the Foundation, I have been traveling a lot around this wonderful Nation of ours and must say, that the American Fire Service has truly unified itself and bonded more closely especially since the tragic occurrences of September 11, 2001. And because of that, we as a fire service and a nation are stronger and more committed to face

whatever challenges that may come our way. However, that continues to increase the risks placed on the Fire Service, as should be, our increasing importance to the first line of defense of our communities to face all of the threats that are present in the world today.

A position of critical importance to our homeland security and one that bring new concerns and questions related to the safety, well being and most of all the survivability of our Nations First Responders. Especially during these very trying economic times.

We cannot continue to do more with less. But, find a balance between resources and response. Firefighters are committed individuals who go where others will not and need everyone's support to do so. That is why I am convinced that dignity and compassion run deep in our firefighting family. When tragedy strikes the fire service – our family grows a little closer. And, most importantly, our family members are always there when one of its own is in need or in trouble. Both before and after a line of duty death occurs. "We will always remember and thank our fire service heroes."

Ladies and Gentleman, again Thank You for having me here today and I know that each of these individuals honored on this memorial will forever remain in our hearts. Be safe in your travels. God Bless each of our fallen heroes, their families and all of you.

Notice

Chief Butch Morrill would like all members to know that there will be two open positions on the Board of New England Association of Fire Chiefs during 2011. The cutoff date for announcing candidacy is March 26, 2011. Prior to this active members of NEAFC from NH must caucus and vote on potential candidates, which will be done at either the January or February monthly meeting. If anyone is interested they can contact him or review the information and requirements at www.newenglandfirechiefs.org under membership, constitution and by-laws. The positions are NH Director (3 years) and 2nd Vice President.

Chief Ronald Jon Siarnicki

Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation

Ronald Jon Siarnicki, the Foundation's Executive Director, began his career as a firefighter with the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department in 1978 and, over 24 years, progressed through the ranks to Chief of the Department. In this position, he served as the Chief Executive Officer responsible for the fire, rescue and emergency medical services of Prince George's County, Maryland. While with the Department, he also served on the Joint Fire and Police Pension Board for four years.



created the catalyst for the development of the *Everyone Goes Home*® Program designed to reduce the number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths that occur each year in the United States.

Chief Siarnicki delivers presentations at fire and emergency conferences and meetings across the country, increasing awareness of the Foundation, the efforts of its prevention work and support for the families of the fallen. In recognition of his outstanding leadership with the Foundation's and the fire service as a

Prior to joining the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, he served as a volunteer firefighter with the Monessen Volunteer Fire Department, Hose House #2, in western Pennsylvania. In doing so, he followed a family tradition-both his father and grandfather were volunteer firefighters.

whole, he has been recognized by various groups and organizations to include: The Fire Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award, Alan Brunacini Fire Services Executive Safety Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Presidents Award of Distinction, University of Maryland, University College Distinguished Alumnus, American Burn Association's Moncrief Award and the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Silver Medal of Valor.

In July 2001, he retired from the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department to take the position of Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In this role, he has managed the day to day operations of the Foundation to include the National Memorial Services, construction of the National Memorial Park and the renovation of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In addition, he

A strong proponent of higher education, he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and served as a UMUC faculty member for the Fire Science Curriculum.



NHAFC President Shawn Murray testifying before the legislative study committee regarding efforts to preserve local control of managing fire risk with sprinklers.

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USFA Releases 2009 Firefighter Fatality Report

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has released its annual report on firefighter fatalities. Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2009 shows that last year heart attack remained the leading cause of line-of-duty firefighter deaths. The total number of fatalities in 2009 was one of the lowest totals in the 33 years USFA has conducted the annual analysis.

Ninety on-duty firefighters from 33 states lost their lives as the result of incidents that occurred in 2009. Pennsylvania experienced the highest number of fatalities (8). In addition to Pennsylvania, only New York (7), North Carolina (6), Louisiana (5), and Texas (5) had five or more firefighter fatalities. In 2008, nine states experienced five or more on-duty fatalities.

“Over the past 10 years alone, the trend shows a 14 percent reduction in on-duty firefighter fatalities but we must continue every effort to be sure that when it comes to firefighter health and safety, everyone goes home,” Acting United States Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines said.

The objective of Firefighter Fatalities in the United States is to identify all on-duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the U.S. and its protectorates during the calendar year and present a summary of the circumstances surrounding each occurrence.

Of the 90 firefighters that died while on duty in 2009, 47 were volunteer, 36 career, and seven were wildland agency firefighters. The two leading causes of on-duty fatalities remained heart attack and vehicle accidents, although the numbers were lower than last year. Heart attacks caused 39 firefighter deaths, compared with 45 in 2008. Fifteen firefighters died while responding to or returning from emergency incidents, compared to 24 in 2008.

Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts toward finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used by many organizations to measure the effectiveness of their current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety. Find the full 2009 fatality report as well as archived reports on the USFA's [web site](#).

Holiday Fire-Safety Tips

There's nothing that says "Happy Holidays!" like the sight of sparkling lights and the smell of the fresh pine and balsam in our homes. According to the U.S. Fire Administration there are simple safety steps you can take to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season. Check the tips below to eliminate any potential dangers for your family and your home.

Trees:

- ✓ Select a tree with fresh needles. They should be hard to pull back and should not fall off when handling the tree.
- ✓ Trunk should be sticky to touch. If you can, it's a good idea to cut 1 to 2 inches off when you get the tree home.
- ✓ Set up your tree away from fire places and radiators.
- ✓ Keep your tree stand filled with water as heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly. Do not keep your tree up too long.
- ✓ Never put tree branches or needles in a fire-place or wood stove when it becomes dry.
- ✓ Dispose of it promptly by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.
- ✓ Look for the label "fire resistant" if you have an artificial tree.
- ✓ Place your tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

Lights and Decorations:

- ✓ Always check your lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- ✓ Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- ✓ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees and house walls to protect the lights from wind damage and use only insulated staples to hold strings in place.
- ✓ Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights can short out and start a fire.
- ✓ Holiday decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

(Courtesy of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office)



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