

TURN OUT



Spring 2015



TURN OUT

The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

Published Twice Yearly—Spring and Fall

**The purpose of the IFBA is
"To serve as a common ground for Fire Buffs, active in
promoting the general welfare of Fire Departments, allied
emergency services, their officers and members."**

Editorial Staff

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Jim Williamson, *Circulation Coordinator*

Subscription Information

Turn Out is available free of charge via internet website at www.ifba.org. You may download and print each edition free; however, you may not sell or otherwise profit from selling printed copies.

Those individuals or clubs wishing a printed copy of *Turn Out* in lieu of obtaining through the website should contact Jim Williamson for additional information and pricing.

Mailing Address:
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Indianapolis IN 46220
E-Mail: turnout@ifba.org

Submission Policy

Turn Out has an "open submission" policy. We encourage immediate submission of stories on fires and events "when they happen." More than one submission per issue is welcomed and encouraged.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit articles electronically to the e-mail address noted below. As an alternative, articles may be submitted on CD or disk, or as a last alternative, in written form.

Electronic files should be prepared using a major word processing program, such as *Word* or *WordPerfect*. You may always submit an article in "text" format also.

Pictures should be digitized at 300 dpi resolution to allow for sizing. **All photographs must be captioned** and acknowledge the photographer. Of course, photos should be sharp and clear. Full color photos are encouraged.

Once submitted, all articles and pictures become the property of *Turn Out*.

Deadlines

Publishing date November 15, 2015 - **Submission deadline November 1, 2015**
Publishing date May 1, 2016—**Submission deadline April 15, 2016**

Cover photo by Jim Peruta, www.res23cue.net

Firefighters battle a second alarm building fire at 1363 Main Street, Hartford, CT, on April 2, 2015. Hartford is the host city for the 2015 IFBA Convention.

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**2015 63RD IFBA CONVENTION
P.O. BOX 3
EAST GRANBY, CT 06026
HOSTED BY THE CONNECTICUT
FIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS
CFPA 40TH ANNIVERSARY**



The Connecticut Fire Photographers invites everyone to attend 63rd Annual International Fire Buff Associates Convention in Hartford CT August 12 – 15, 2015. The Convention Hotel will be the Radisson Hotel in downtown Hartford 50 Morgan Street easy access from RT I-84, exit 50 east and west and RT I-91, exit 32B north and south. We have secured a room rate of \$129.00 per night which includes breakfast and free parking. The Hartford bus and train station are just a few blocks from the hotel. Bradley International Airport located in Windsor Locks CT is a short ride to the hotel.

For Hotel reservations call 860-549-2400 or 800-967-9033 and you must mention you are with the IFBA Convention to get the room rate.

We are looking forward to seeing you August 12-15 for the 63rd IFBA Convention and the CFPA 40th Anniversary.



**RADISSON HOTEL HARTFORD
50 MORGAN STREET HARTFORD CT 06120
860-549-2400 or 800-967-9033**

Property Location

With a stay at Radisson Hotel Hartford, you'll be centrally located in Hartford, steps from Hartford Stage and minutes from Hartford Symphony Orchestra. This hotel is within close proximity of XL Center and Wadsworth Atheneum.



**2015 63RD IFBA CONVENTION
P.O. BOX 3
EAST GRANBY, CT 06026
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FIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS
CFPA 40TH ANNIVERSARY**



63th Annual International Fire Buff Associates Convention
Hartford Connecticut
August 11-15, 2015

Tuesday August 11

Registration	3pm – 10pm
Executive Board Meeting	7 pm
Hospitality Room and Buffing	3 pm – 10 pm

Wednesday August 12

Opening Ceremony, Memorial Business meeting	9 am – 12 noon
Lunch provided	12 noon – 1 pm
Convention previews	1 pm – 4 pm
Seminar Hartford Circus Fire	
Seminar Hartford Hospital Fire	
Hospitality Room	4 pm – 6 pm
Dinner on your own	
Hospitality Room and Buffing	8 pm

Thursday August 13

Depart for tours	
Hartford FD, West Hartford FD	9 am – 4pm
Dinner Lady Katherine Cruise	6 pm – 9 pm
Hospitality Room and Buffing	9:30 pm

Friday August 14

Depart for Tours	
Meriden FD, Wallingford FD New Haven FD	8 am – 4 pm
Hospitality Room and Buffing	7 pm

Saturday August 15

Depart for Tours	
East Hartford FD, Manchester FD, Fire Museum Pine Street Manchester	8 am – 2 pm
Reception	6 pm
Banquet	7 pm
Hospitality Room and Buffing	9:30 pm

Schedule, Events and Times are Tentative



**2015 63RD IFBA CONVENTION
P.O. BOX 3
EAST GRANBY, CT 06026
HOSTED BY THE CONNECTICUT
FIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS
CFPA 40TH ANNIVERSARY**



CONVENTION FULL REGISTRATION FORM

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE / PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____
TELEPHONE _____ CELL _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
IFBA CLUB _____
DELEGATE _____ ALTERNATE _____ IFBA OFFICER _____ GUEST _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE _____

WE WILL NOT PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION WITHOUT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

_____ FULL REGISTRATION BY JUNE 1, 2015\$355.00
_____ FULL REGISTRATION BY JULY 15, 2015\$375.00
_____ FULL REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 15, 2015.....\$390.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO : 2015 IFBA CONVENTION

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: 2015 IFBA CONVENTION
P. O. BOX 3
EAST GRANBY CT 06026



**2015 63RD IFBA CONVENTION
P.O. BOX 3
EAST GRANBY, CT 06026
HOSTED BY THE CONNECTICUT
FIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS
CFPA 40TH ANNIVERSARY**



CONVENTION PARTIAL REGISTRATION FORM

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE / PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

IFBA CLUB _____

DELEGATE _____ ALTERNATE _____ IFBA OFFICER _____ GUEST _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE _____

WE WILL NOT PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION WITHOUT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

_____ WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2015\$50.00

_____ THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2015\$100.00

_____ FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 2015.....\$100.00

_____ SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2015\$100.00

_____ BOAT CRUISE AND DINNER
THURSDAY NIGHT AUGUST 13, 2015\$80.00

_____ BANQUET DINNER AUGUST 15, 2015\$50.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 2015 IFBA CONVENTION

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: 2015 IFBA CONVENTION
P. O. BOX 3
EAST GRANBY CT 06026



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CFPA 40TH ANNIVERSARY**



Program Book Ad Order Form

FULL PAGE 8.5 x 11"	HALF 8.5 x 5.5"	PAGE 5.5"
	QUARTER PAGE 4.25 x 5.5"	BUSINESS CARD 4.25x2.75"

_____ Full Page	8.5 x 11"	\$100.00
_____ Half Page	8.5 x 5.5"	\$ 75.00
_____ Quarter Page	4.25 x 5.5"	\$ 50.00
_____ Business Card	4.25 x 2.75"	\$ 25.00
_____ Inside Front Cover	8.5 x 11"	\$125.00

Preferred format: High resolution PDF file or word doc

Submit electronically, please complete this form and mail with payment to:

2015 63RD IFBA Convention, P.O. Box 3, East Granby, CT 06026

Send via email to and questions: ctfirephoto@gmail.com

Layout and design work will be an additional cost

All ads are due July 1, 2015

All ads will be black & white

Please Complete

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____ **Zip/Postal** _____

Phone # 1 _____ **Phone # 2** _____

E-mail Address _____



**2015 63RD IFBA CONVENTION
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EAST GRANBY, CT 06026
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OTHER PLACES TO VISIT WHILE IN CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CENTER 250 COLUMBUS BLVD HARTFORD

MARK TWAIN HOUSE AND MUSEUM 351 FARMINGTON AVE HARTFORD

OLD STATE HOUSE 800 MAIN ST HARTFORD

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM 600 MAIN ST HARTFORD

FOXWOODS CASINO

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO

MYSTIC SEAPORT

MYSTIC AQUARIUM

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME SPRINGFIELD MA

BARNUM MUSEUM BRIDGEPORT CT – UNDER RENOVATIONS CHECK
BEFORE GOING

USS NAUTILUS MUSEUM GROTON CT

DINOSAUR PARK ROCKY HILL CT

CONNECTICUT TROLLEY AND FIRE MUSEUM EAST WINDSOR CT

SHORE LINE TROLLEY MUSEUM EAST HAVEN CT

CT AIR MUSEUM WINDSOR LOCKS

CT FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL AT THE CT FIRE ACADEMY WINDSOR LOCKS

April 5, 2015

To: All IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members

Subject: Nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" Award – 2015

According to Article 8 of the IFBA By-Laws, all Active Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible to submit nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" award to be presented at the Convention in Hartford, CT, on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at the convention banquet.

Names of candidates for the award along with a resume stating the reasons for the person's nomination must be received by the Executive Office no later than **June 14, 2015** in order to be considered by the Fire Buff of the Year Committee for the 2014 presentation. The IFBA operates on a fiscal-year basis, July 1 to June 30, for this award.

The Executive Office urges you to make this subject a top priority. This is a very great honor for the recipient and we are asking all clubs to put forth their effort in submitting these resumes. Surely you all have outstanding fire buffs in your midst that are deserving of this honor. If your candidates name has previously been submitted but not selected, that name may be re-submitted. Only members of IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible for this award.

Please refer to the attached information regarding this award as provided by the "Fire Buff of the Year" Committee and the list of previous honorees. You may contact me at the below address for any information concerning this award.

It will be greatly appreciated if the nominations and resumes are forwarded to this office at the below address as soon as possible to allow the Fire Buff of the Year Committee sufficient time to study these nominations and make their final selection. Any names that are submitted after June 14 will not be considered.

If your nominee has previously been nominated, but not selected, it is not necessary to complete an entire re-nomination but rather a letter on official stationary asking that your previous nominee be reconsidered is all that is necessary. Note: Do not submit these resumes to any member of the committee as they must be officially logged in with the Executive Office for the permanent file. Otherwise, they will not be considered. We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours in good Fire Buffing,

William M. Mokros, Executive Vice President
11017 N Redwood Tree Ct, Mequon, WI 53092

E-mail executiveoffice@ifba.org



HENRY N. WILWERS FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR **AWARD**

We, the members of the “Fire Buff of the Year” Committee, would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize IFBA’s interest in the continuation of this Award for many years to come, and to expand somewhat on the information contained in the accompanying letter from the Executive Vice President regarding the nominations for the 2014 Award.

The “Fire Buff of the Year” Award, as it was first known, was established in St. Louis in 1967 to honor the man or woman who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguish a Fire Buff’s outstanding achievements in the interests of the IFBA and/or the avocation of Fire Buffing. It has been awarded annually since that time. In April 1976 the name of the Award was changed to further honor its first recipient, Henry N. “Hank” Wilwers.

Any Active Member Group or Associate Member may nominate a member of an IFBA Member Group or an Associate Member to receive the honor. Nominations must be made, in writing, to the Executive Office, as described in the attached letter.

There are no specific “qualifications” or “standards” that must be met. The Committee considers (among other attributes): service to IFBA, service to the local buff club or clubs, service to local fire departments or agencies, service to national fire agencies, assistance to the fire service community in general. The “key word” is, of course, “**service**.” A simple resume, supported by letters of recommendation, is all that is required by the Committee.

If a nominee is not selected, this does not signify a “pink slip” rejection for all time. It simply results from the fact that only one candidate is chosen annually. Should the nominator(s) wish a nominee to be re-considered the next year (or at a later date), a letter to that effect is the only requirement (all files are maintained for a number of years). The Committee does not automatically review these files each year - a re-nomination must be made.

The Committee protects the confidentiality of its deliberations and the identity of the honoree is not made public until the Award Ceremony at the annual convention banquet, nor does the Committee divulge the rationale for its selection, beyond the biographical data presented at the banquet, when all present learn of the accomplishments of the Award winner.

We would like to urge all IFBA Regional Vice Presidents and Member Group officers to make their constituents more aware of this fine opportunity to honor one of their own with this prestigious award. There are many IFBA’ers who are qualified to join the previous honorees who have been recognized for their accomplishments.

Stuart M. Nathan, Chairman

Tom Pelaia

Noel Kerkhoff

Ed McMichael

IFBA Club Website Recognition Award

General Criteria

In an effort to encourage new IFBA Club Websites, and recognize those already in operation, the following guidelines are suggested to be used as the basis of an award.

1. Home Page
 - a. Goals and Mission statement of the Club
 - b. Current Club Officers
 - c. Appropriate Club and Affiliated Organizations logos
2. Club history
3. Membership
 - a. General requirements/obligations
 - b. Printable/electronic membership application
 - c. Number of members
4. Home Fire Department(s)
 - a. History
 - b. Apparatus and Station locations
 - c. Current runs/statistics
5. Key Radio Frequencies in use in the area
6. Club Statistics
 - a. If operate a canteen, current run numbers
 - b. If sponsor a museum, number of visitors, hours of operation, type of exhibits, etc.
 - c. If give awards, what kind, criteria used, recent winners
7. Calendar of upcoming local, club and IFBA events
8. Abundant photos of Club, Fire Dep't., IFBA activities, etc. throughout the site
9. Links to other Fire Buff/IFBA sites
10. Ease of navigating the website
11. Evidence that the website is kept current

Any Club interested in being considered must self-nominate for this recognition. Others can also suggest club websites, and they will be considered as well. Note that the IFBA will not actively review Club websites; it is the Club's responsibilities to make the initial nomination.

All nominations should be directed to either:

Ira Cohen, Mrihcohen@aol.com

Rick Cutts, Lynnfa0@Juno.com

no later than February 15, so that there is adequate time to evaluate the website prior to the next IFBA Convention. Modification to this deadline may be made at the discretion of the Website Award Committee.

If a Club would like to be considered for this award, but for certain club specific reasons they do not include any of the above listed criteria, they should indicate this in their nomination request. We do not want to penalize any club for not including information, if there is a valid reason.

This award will be "virtual." The winner will be noted on the IFBA Website, and the winner will be encouraged to include proper notation on their website, club stationary, etc.

Roman A. Kaminski Memorial Scholarship

The objective of this award is to commemorate the legacy of Roman Kaminski to the IFBA and in so doing provide a scholarship to a worthy individual in the hope of encouraging new individuals to attend the annual convention.

The scholarship will be awarded annually and will cover the cost of the early IFBA convention registration. The cost for this will be assumed by the IFBA, not the host convention committee.

The general guidelines are as follows:

1. The award is available to anyone who is a member in good standing of an IFBA Club, or individual IFBA member and who has not attended a previous convention.
2. Clubs are encouraged to submit nominations to the Executive Board no later than the Spring Board Meeting.
3. Individuals may self-nominate, but these nominations must be accompanied with a letter of support from their club.
4. Both the nominating club and the nominee must submit a letter/essay indicating what personal and club benefit he/she hopes to gain from attending the IFBA Convention and why he/she feels deserving of such an award. The nominee's essay should also include his/her fire buffing background and interest.
5. Both the nomination letters and the essay from the candidate should be submitted electronically to the Executive Vice President in time for discussion at the Spring Executive Board Meeting.
6. The Executive Board shall vote on the winner. If there are no nominations, the Executive Board, at its sole discretion, may award the scholarship to a worthy individual of their choice. But this selection must be in keeping with the general guidelines of encouraging new convention participation.
7. To insure that the winner does indeed attend the convention, he/she shall be notified of their selection as soon as possible after the Board Meeting so that the proper convention registration paperwork can be submitted. However, no check for the registration cost will be sent. At the Board meeting at the Convention, the convention committee will verify that the winner has registered and will be attending. Once that has been established, the IFBA will reimburse the convention committee the early registration fee for the winner of the Kaminski Scholarship.
8. Should the winner not attend, the IFBA Executive Board may select another worthy individual who is attending and reimburse him/her directly the money he/she spent on the early registration fee.
9. Modifications to these submission/notification deadlines may be authorized by the IFBA Executive Board.

Spring 2015 IFBA
Executive Board Meeting
Radisson Hartford Hotel
Hartford, CT
April 25, 2015

1300 hours, meeting commenced with National Anthems of Canada and the United States, as well as the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

Roll Call of Board Members was conducted.

A discussion was held on communication received from Board of Directors of 5-11 Club in Chicago, and a response sent by Executive Vice-President Mokros.

Financial Report by Treasurer Schaetzle. Motion to accept, seconded and approved.

President Beliveau spoke on the preparations for the convention, and introduced CFPA members working on convention.

Executive Vice-President report deferred.

Constitution and By-Laws, Bill Celentano, nothing to report.

Stu Nathan spoke on the recent CFSI events. Dinner attended by Stu Nathan, Paul Schaetzle and Chris Oliphant.

Convention Facilitator; Rick Cutts. Spoke on the hotel being used for 2016 Convention in Washington, D.C. suburbs. Currently there is nothing scheduled beyond 2016.

Historical Committee, Bill Mokros, nothing to report.

Resource Committee, Ira Cohen, report submitted electronically.

Web Site/Newsletter Committee, clubs encouraged to self-nominate. Regional Vice-Presidents asked to bring the message back to their clubs.

Fire and Life Safety, recent President Beliveau will submit inspection report. Nothing received to date for 2016.

Publicity; Stu Nathan. Continues to follow up on publicity inquiries.

Turn-Out; Jerry Traub, spoke on recent matter where submitted material was not included. Spring 2015 issue to be published soon. Members encouraged to submit material by Wednesday April 29, 2015.

Web Site. Bill Mokros. Discussion on managing the content and access to the web site. Treasurer Schaetzle reports IFBA now has Pay-Pal capability.

Motion: Keep access to members section of web site to IFBA Club Members only. Passed.

Recruitment and Retention: Discussion ensued on the difficulties many clubs are having with recruiting and retaining members.

Fire Buff of The Year Award. Stu Nathan, 2014 was the largest number of nominations received. Nominations should be submitted by June 30, 2015.

Membership. Ira Rubin has received one inquiry from Schuylkill Historical Fire Society.

Strategic Planning. Stu Nathan. Only outstanding issue appears to be Region 7 meetings.

Regional Reports:

Region 1: No Report

Region 3: Central Alarmers are selling a canteen vehicle.

Region 4: No Report

Region 5: Regional Meeting was held in Houston, TX

Region 6: Indianapolis is hosting a Regional Meeting with Region 4 on May 29 to 31.

Region 7: Report submitted via e-mail.

Region 9: Report to be submitted at the convention.

Region 11: No Report.

Regional VP at Large: Has attended convention-planning meetings.

Convention Plans: President Beliveau spoke on convention program. Executive Board Meeting on August 11. Convention packets have been sent via e-mail.

2016 Convention. Chris Oliphant spoke on 2016 Convention to be held at Radisson Hotel North Baltimore in Timonium, MD. Convention dates August 2 to August 6, 2016. Room rate currently is \$95.00 per night.

2016 Spring Board Meeting to be held Saturday April 16, 2016.

2017: Potential for a joint meeting in Orlando, FL.

Motion: by Ira Cohen, second by Chris Oliphant for the Executive Office to investigate a joint meeting with SPAAMFAA (and other entities) in Orlando, FL in 2017. Passed.

Donations to IFBA will be available via Pay Pal on web site.

December 10, 2015 65th Anniversary of the Gong Club in Jersey City, NJ.

Stu Nathan spoke on the National Fire Heritage Center and their wish to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the IFBA.

Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.
Box 22 Associates
Box 41 Associates
Box 52 Association., Inc.
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs
Connecticut Fire Photographers Association
Connecticut Special Signal Association
Essex County Fire Wardens Association
Middlesex County Firefighter & Fire Wardens Assn.
Providence Citywide Fire Network
Special Signal Fire Assn.
The Leather Helmet Society
International Fire Photographers Association
Southern Maine Fire Notification Network



BOX 52 ASSOCIATION, INC. BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION AND
EXTINGUISHMENT IN METROPOLITAN BOSTON

ESTABLISHED 1912
INCORPORATED 1918

The snow has finally melted here in Boston and the flowers are beginning to bloom. Things are almost back to normal as we look forward to the IFBA convention in Hartford CT. The oldest fire buff Association in the nation is very busy with planning interesting programs that increase our attendance every month.

In January, we met in our usual meeting location in South Boston and had as our guest speaker Commissioner and Chief of Department Joseph E. Finn. Chief Finn spent close to one hour highlighting his plans for the future of the Boston Fire Department. He was quite open and frank and answered any and all questions the members had. As is the custom of the Association, the Chief was made an honorary member of the Box 52 and he was encouraged to visit any of our meetings.

Our February meeting was canceled due to the record breaking amounts of snow in the Boston area and the difficult driving conditions. Many of our members live a ways from Boston and drive great distances to attend our meetings. Our scheduled guest speaker, SOD Chief Don Hayde of FDNY will be re-scheduled for a later date.

In March we were the guests of member Chief Sullivan of the Wakefield Fire Department. After a tour of his Fire house and the viewing of his newest piece of apparatus, close to fifty members listened to fellow member Chief Frank Twiss of the Middleton Fire Department. Chief Twiss spoke to us about the chemical explosion at the Bostik Corporation that occurred on March 14, 2011. It was a very interesting presentation and we learned a great deal about the many agencies that the

Chief had to deal with that investigated the incident.

In April, the Association revived one of our long standing traditions with a ham and bean supper followed by a Jim Blomley slide show. In recent times the event had not been held due to the passing of member Blomley and a decrease in attendance. Thanks to the hard work and planning by past President Al Macdonald the traditional event has been revived. Over one hundred members and guests attended the dinner which was held at Protection Two in Newbury Massachusetts. There was a large display of area apparatus including a command post from the Seacoast of New Hampshire. Member Andrew Murphy, the Grandson of the late Mr. Blomley, has possession of his Grandfather's slides and treated us to a traditional old fashioned show featuring views many of us had not seen since the passing of Jim. Many members of Jim's family were invited guests to the event. Past President Macdonald was presented with his Presidents badge encased in Lucite and a white presentation helmet with the Box 52 Association face piece.

On May 30, the Association will hold their semi-annual bus trip. The Box 52 is one of the few clubs that still hold a bus trip due to the ever increasing cost of bus transportation. Planned stops for the trip include five Plymouth Fire stations and many surrounding fire departments. A very full day is planned with a very early start from Quincy Massachusetts. All IFBA members are encouraged to stay current with the Box 52's activities by checking our Facebook page and/or website.
www.box52.org

Region

5

Box 4 Fire Buff Assn., Inc.

Firefighting Historical Society, Inc.

Fort Worth Red Helmets

Greater Houston Fire Buffs

Signal “51” Group

Box 4 DALLAS, TX

The Salvation Army – Box 4 Canteen responds to Gas Leak in Downtown Dallas

March 19, 2015 - 9:58 AM EDT

Joshua Moseley

joshua_moseley@uss.salvationarmy.org

Dallas, TX – At approximately 5:48 PM on Thursday, February 27, 2015, Box 4, a quick response Salvation Army Canteen, was requested by Dallas Fire-Rescue to respond to a natural gas leak at a high-rise building in downtown Dallas.

Box 4 was invited to eat dinner with Dallas Fire Station 34 in Pleasant Grove at 6:30 PM, where they would also conduct their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting, when they received the call to respond. According to Wally Banks, The Salvation Army Liaison Committee Chairman for Box 4, “business always takes precedence over pleasure.”

Both of their rehab units and twenty one Box 4 members responded to the incident. Engine, truck, and Hazmat crews from Dallas Fire-Rescue rotated through rehab for approximately 2 hours. Civilians were also assisted during the event.

Box 4 is a quick response canteen that supports the fire departments in the Dallas area on a 24/7 basis. They receive a direct page from Dallas Fire-Rescue when their services are requested and have been associated with The Salvation Army since 1963.

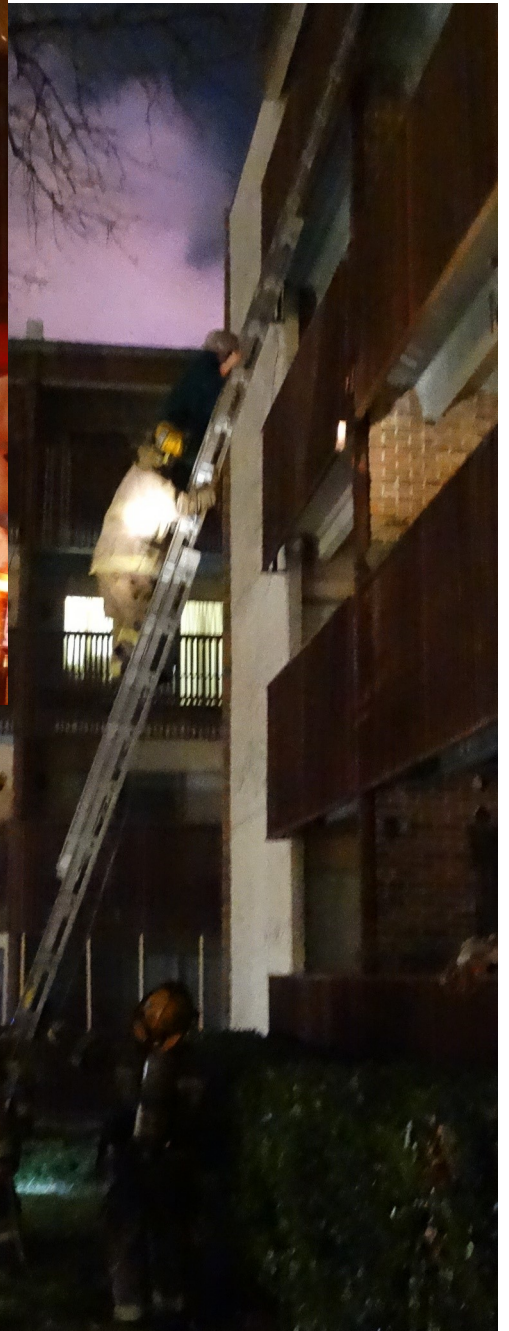
If you are interested in learning more about The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) in the great State of Texas, or to become a local disaster volunteer, please visit: www.disaster.salvationarmyusa.org.



5 Alarm Assisted Living Facility 6008 Ridgecrest Dallas TX

Box came in at approximately 3 AM, reporting numerous residents trapped in a three story facility. Several rescues were made during the next several hours. Unfortunately two residents did not make it out. This operation continued until 12 noon the next day.







03/29/2015 CONTI & N. PRIEUR ST. 2-ALARMS

HOT SPOTS

03/21/2015 6300 FOUNTAINBLEAU BLVD. 2-ALARMS

All photos and captions by Chris E. Mickal,
District Chief, New Orleans Fire Dept.
www.firelinephotos.com

01/08/2015 4320 CONSTANCE ST. 2-ALARMS





03/14/2015 6836 CORO-
NET COURT 2-
ALARMS



02/24/2015 1241 PHILIP ST. 4-
ALARMS



02/12/2015 FLAMBEAU LIGHT-
ING FOR A NIGHT MARDI
GRAS PARADE

Region

6

5-11 Club, Inc.
10-87 Club of Greater Rockford
Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.
Box 55 Assoc.
Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities
Indianapolis Fire Buffs
Metropolitan Emergency Support Services,
Inc. (M. E. S. S.)
Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.
Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.
Milwaukee Fire Historical Society, Ltd.
Moline Second Alarm Assn.
Racine Fire Bell Club, Inc.
Waukesha County Emergency Support & Inc.

5-11 Club, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 8511

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680

By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

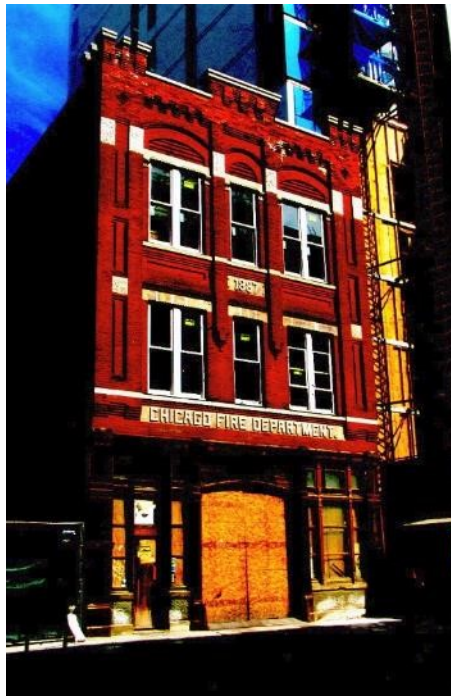
The winter of 2014-15 was a typical Chicago winter, always cold and with enough snow to make it interesting. Such was the case when an early February snowstorm dropped over 20 inches of snow in the City. What wasn't typical this winter was the low number of multiple alarm fires, during the first three months of the season, with January and February recording only one multiple alarm for each month.

On December 10, 2014, a 2-11 alarm fire gutted a famed Chicago landmark, The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant, located just south of the downtown area at 14th and Michigan Avenues. The building was erected in 1906 and housed Engine 104 and Truck 31. The house was closed and sold to a developer

in 1999. The restaurant was opened in 2000 and remained in business until the fire. Workmen doing roof repairs accidentally started the fire causing the entire roof to collapse into the second floor despite the efforts of over 100 firefighters. The owners plan to repair and reopen the structure in the future. While on the subject of historic firehouses, the wrecking ball will not be used on En-

gine 42's old quarters at 228 West Illinois Street, one of the last three-story firehouses that remain standing in Chicago. The structure, completed in 1888, will be a modern office building on the inside while maintaining the classic firehouse exterior. The house was last used by the CFD in 1968.

CFD apparatus updates have been limited to purchases of ambulances from Wheeled Coach. The last of two orders for ambulances have been received and put into service. Twelve 2014 Ford Explorers have been received and assigned to eleven different battalion chiefs and to 6-8-6, Special Operations Dive Master. The Dive Master responds to all water related incidents with Scuba Team 6-8-7. New specifications and bids are being put together for a purchase of new engines and trucks.



228 West Illinois and 1401 South Michigan (Photos by Chuck Bleck)

The 5-11 Club continues to be very active supporting fire, police and firefighters' union Local 2 events and memorials. Our 21st annual Muster and Flea Market will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Our partners, The Fire Buffs of Illinois will co-sponsor the event. The Muster begins at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m. with an apparatus parade scheduled for 9:30 a.m. We expect as many

as 60 vendors and visits from some CFD companies. Tours of CFD's Survive Alive House will also be available.

May of 2014 saw the addition of a third rig to our canteen fleet, donated by the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 22 Chiefs Association. The 1991 Ford Panel Van has been repaired, repainted and relettered as SS3 (Support Service Unit). It is quartered with SS2 at Engine 80's quarters on the far southeast side of the City. It will be used as a resupply vehicle or as a third canteen, as needed. Recently, all three of our rigs participated in Local 2's Annual Toy Parade. Our canteens finished 2014 with 78 respons-

es for service and have had 11 responses for the first two months of 2015.



SS3 1991 Ford Van (Photo by Jim Mitidiero)

A new book *Forgotten Fires of Chicago* has recently become available. The 148-page book is written by two friends of the 5-11 Club, Alex A. Burkholder and John F. Hogan, and is available at local bookstores and online.

Please visit our website, www.5-11clubchicago.org, for the latest news about the 5-11

Club, activities and a growing photo gallery. Call or email the Club if you plan to visit Chicago. Tours can be arranged with several days' notice.



(Left) 2-11 Alarm at 1401 South Michigan looking SE.

(Below) 2-11 Alarm at 14th and Michigan Avenues facing NE (Photos by Steve Redick)





Indianapolis Fire Buffs
2205 East 58th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

By Jerry Traub

For the new year, Indianapolis Fire Buffs have adopted a new monthly meeting format. A full-size business meeting will be held in odd-numbered months, with a short essential business meeting followed by a program in even-numbered months. Videos, training, talks and other points of interest will be scheduled. Members' personal information will be updated this year, with two emergency contact numbers on file in event of emergency notification. All persons with paid-up dues will be provided Communications (Dispatch) texting from Department of Public Safety broadcast at no charge. This will include Associate members now. Individual e-mail accounts for Active members are now available through our club website. Contact Greg for specifics.

A 100th anniversary committee has been appointed for scheduling activities, building upgrades and assigning personnel for food, tours and memorabilia sales and clean-up during the September, 2015 celebration of our IFD Reserve Station 12 birthday. A "Scuttle Buff" newsletter is being published for distribution to firefighters so they are kept current as we approach our anniversary.

The Insurance committee has advised that we have completed another annual policy term with no reported claims for property, liability, auto or injury to members. We did see a small reduction in our renewal price

this year.

Rehab Support units are showing their age, as repairs are frequent and costly to keep the apparatus in service. We are grateful for services provided by the Wayne Township Fire Department shops and the Indianapolis Fire Department shops. A more business-like approach to expense control was provided by president McMichael at the start of the new year. Committees have been allocated a "no questions asked" (well, almost no questions) limit which they can use as they see fit. Major expenses or new items are to be submitted for authorization and members' vote.

TURNOUT magazine staff reported a complete 2014 Dallas convention edition online. A 32-page Fall/Winter edition is due shortly. Reduced submission count keeps the copy smaller.

Members provided RSU support again this year for the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) at five HOTS

sites on Monday and Tuesday of the week of April 18-25. Once again, support from the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services staff was critical and well done. A favored service location was on the lot at Lucas Oil Stadium, where IFB staff provided support, but also had front row seats for the new apparatus going into the Stadium and Indiana Convention Center that week.

Spring activities are planned with Primary election voting made available for the neighborhood around our



This collage shows many of the Fire Buffs participating in RSU activities during FDIC. Buffs manned five training sites plus the Lucas Oil apparatus assembly area during the week long event. IFB Facebook Photo



IFB Member Marc Parton takes time from making RSU runs to do some much needed landscaping at Reserve Station 12, home of the Indianapolis Fire Buffs. Station 12 will celebrate 100 years of use this year. IFB Facebook picture.

reserve station in early May. We will host an IFBA Bi-Regional (4 & 6) May 29 and 30. A program for Friday night (dinner and baseball at Victory Field), Saturday business meeting, afternoon visits to Local 416 museum, Communications, various city and county stations are planned. Concluding event will be a grand meal at the Rathskeller restaurant.

An appointed committee chaired by veteran firefighter and administrator John Buckman has started a total rewrite of our original Constitution and bylaws. Activities covered, violations and personal performance guidelines really need to be updated. This will be an on-going process until done and acceptance approved by a vote of the membership.

Jerry Traub was able to visit Hartford, CT for the IFBA Spring Executive Board meeting. Information about this year's business meeting and activities were announced.

During the warmer months, upgrades and repairs are continuing inside and out at our Reserve Station 12. Flooring, lighting, and bathroom improvements have been stated. Member Dennis Chambers' donation of a Shopsmith woodworking system (saw, lathe, joiner, drill press, router and other tools) will help with our 100th anniversary projects. A newer model Dell computer, donated by Jim Williamson's mother, has been installed in the work space at the watch desk on first floor.

Challenge coins and multi-colored tee shirts were introduced in April as a part of the celebration in September. Prices will be set soon and items made available to members.

Jerry Traub passed out the May Bi-Regional meeting

schedule and announced that we would be able to use a 10-passenger bus from the Little Sisters of the Poor home in Indianapolis. This should help in getting attendees around town with fewer cars to track and follow.

Vice-president Byron Jacobs presented a demonstration about Backup cameras and GPS units being added to Rehab support units. Any questions at all about performance or capacity should be asked first, not after an incident.

Three new members (Allan Mayer, Jim Leaver and Chara Harper) have been admitted so far this year. We have gotten a lot of interest from former volunteer firefighters from Marion and surrounding counties. Their backgrounds and firemanic history makes for a knowledgeable member quickly after acceptance.

Paperwork never seems to be complete. New safety information forms are being completed for anyone using a Salvation Army vehicle. This same information will keep the driver's license and personal auto insurance files updated for the club's records, too.

Life member Rodger Birchfield was recognized with several presentations during the FDIC Instructors' dinner at Local 416 hall, by the Indiana State Fire Marshal, Indianapolis Fire Department and FDIC staff. Rodger can count 50 years of service as a firefighter, township trustee, newspaper reporter, IFBA member and SPAAMFAA member and officer, apparatus owner and author of multiple books (see Stutz and Boyer). He currently serves as staff photographer and historian for the Indianapolis Fire Department. His most frequent words to pass on—BE SAFE, young man (or woman)! Con-



Rodger Birchfield (left) is honored for 50 years' of Fire Service during a presentation at the FDIC Instructors' Dinner. Presenters State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson (right) and John Buckman, Chief of Indiana Firefighter Training, made Rodger stay for the presentation: he was headed out the door to go to a working fire. IFB Facebook Photo



IFB Members Randy Cox and Justin Birchfield hold the framed display of Rodger's awards. Among the honors was naming April 21, 2015 as Rodger Birchfield Day by the City of Indianapolis. The display was put together for Rodger by IFB Member Marc Parton. IFB Facebook Photo.

gratulations, Rodger!

Dennis Chambers is chasing Rodger's 50 years as he celebrates his 40th anniversary with IFB, as chauffeur and mechanic extraordinaire.

See you in Hartford August 12-15!



Firefighters pause for a moment of rehab while fighting an early morning explosion and fire at a west-side residence. IFB Facebook Photo.

REMINDER

The IRS requires that all non-profit organizations file a Form 990 or 990-N annually to keep their non-profit status. To be timely filed, the return should be submitted by **May 15**. Electronic filing is available. See www.irs.gov.



(Left) Firefighters prepare to extinguish a fully involved residence during FDIC Hands-On Training. When FDIC calls the sites HOTS, they mean it! (Photo by Tod Parker, www.phototac.com.)

(Below) Indianapolis firefighters use a K12 saw to cut access holes in the side of a burning metal pole barn. This fire occurred on 2/15/15 on the southeast side of the city. (Photo by Rodger Birchfield)





Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

By: Dan Rode

Now that the brutal winter is behind us, we can now focus on the spring, baseball, and fire buffing. The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club had a busy year in 2014, finishing up with (51) runs including (20) emergency incidents, (11) training exercises, and (20) P.R. events. A comprehensive review of the runs is provided below:

M.F.B.C. Rehab Committee 2014 Run Report

Emergency incidents

02-01 6220 W. College Ave., Village of Greendale (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for a condominium)
 03-01 7325 W. Southridge Dr., City of Greenfield (MABAS Division 107 3rd alarm for an apartment building)
 03-03 7245 County Hwy. LL, Village of Belgium (MABAS Division 119 3rd alarm for a 2-story occupied house)
 03-12 5481 S. Packard Ave., City of Cudahy (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for a fire at Ladish Corp.)
 03-20 5791 S. Kurtz Rd., Village of Hales Corners (MABAS Division 107 Working Still for a 2-story occupied house)
 04-04 Whitnall & Grange, City of Cudahy (tactical incident)
 04-11 804 Lakefield Rd., Town of Grafton (MABAS Division 119 2nd alarm for a barn/garage)
 04-22 Water & Clybourn, City of Milwaukee (major natural gas leak)
 04-24 5848 S. 13th St., City of Milwaukee (3rd alarm for an auto salvage yard)
 05-06 381 Lakeshore Rd., Town of Grafton (MABAS Division 119 Box alarm for a brush fire)
 05-11 8175 S. 36th St., City of Franklin (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for an attached garage fire)
 05-19 270 N. Mill St., Village of Saukville (MABAS Division 119 2nd alarm for explosion & fire at Johnson Brass foundry)
 05-21 205 Green Bay Rd., Village of Thiensville (MABAS Division 119 Box alarm for an apartment building fire)
 06-30 5110 S. Packard Ave., City of Cudahy (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for an mercantile building fire)
 07-12 1640 W. Bruce St., City of Milwaukee (1st alarm + S/C's for 7 engines for fire at Miller Compressing Co.)
 11-06 Milwaukee & Erie, City of Milwaukee (dive rescue recovery)
 11-17 1640 W. Bruce St., City of Milwaukee (2nd alarm for fire at Miller Compressing Co.)
 11-24 1035 W. Canal St., City of Milwaukee (HURT incident for 5 workers trapped 150' up on smokestack at the WE Energies Valley Power Plant)
 12-20 6680 N. Teutonia Ave., City of Milwaukee (M.P.D. M.I.R.T. support during protests)
 12-22 9th & St. Paul, City of Milwaukee (M.F.D./M.P.D. support during protests)
 12-23 9th & St. Paul, City of Milwaukee (M.F.D./M.P.D. support during protests)

Training exercises

07-01 U.L. Study house burn, 3150 N. 9th St., Milwaukee
 07-02 U.L. Study house burn, 426-28 W. Burleigh St., Milwaukee
 07-03 U.L. Study house burn, 426-28 W. Burleigh St., Milwaukee
 07-08 U.L. Study house burn, 3378 N. 25th St., Milwaukee
 07-09 U.L. Study house burn, 3378 N. 25th St., Milwaukee
 07-26 M.F.D. Junior Fire Institute Training Camp, B.I.T.
 08-27 5000 S. 116th St., Whitnall High School (Active Shooter exercise)



Milwaukee County Fire Department Rescue 8 assists in foam handlines at Miller Compressing, 11-17-14. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

08-28 4800 S. 60th St., Greenfield High School
(Active Shooter exercise)
08-29 4800 S. 60th St., Greenfield High School
(Active Shooter exercise)
09-17 Cooling vest training, M.F.D. Training
Academy
10-04 South Milwaukee F.D. (Confined Space
training)

P.R. events

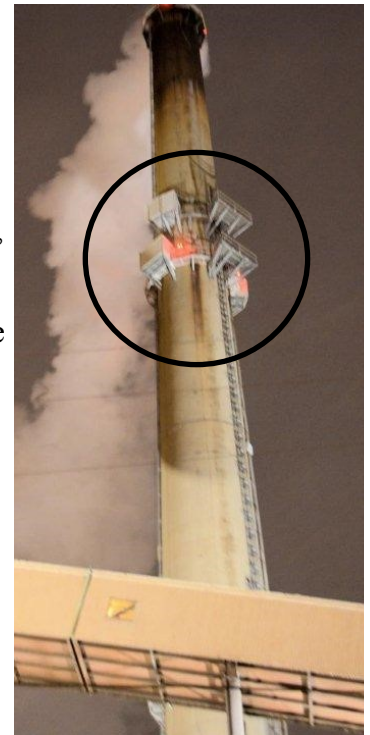
01-16 6680 N. Teutonia Ave., Milwaukee (M.F.D.
Fire Recruit graduation)
05-31 Bayshore Mall Safety Days
06-21 Lakefront Air & Water Show
06-22 Lakefront Air & Water Show
06-28 Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Convention
reception
08-06 National Night Out, St. Francis
08-09 U.S.A. Triathlon, Milwaukee Lakefront
08-10 U.S.A. Triathlon, Milwaukee Lakefront
08-12 National Night Out, Saukville
08-20 Milwaukee Fire Local 215 Retirees Picnic at Maier Festival Park
09-11 09-11 Ceremony, M.A.T.C. South Campus
09-12 Firefighter Combat Challenge, M.A.T.C. South Campus
09-13 Firefighter Combat Challenge, M.A.T.C. South Campus
09-13 Menomonee Falls Safety Days
09-20 Thiensville Public Safety Days
10-04 Germantown Fire Safety Fair
10-05 Grafton F.D. Open House
10-08 M.F.D. Fallen Firefighters' Memorial
10-09 M.F.D. Awards Ceremony
10-23 6680 N. Teutonia Ave., Milwaukee (M.F.D. Fire Recruit graduation)

The club served at several long duration incidents towards the end of last year. First, on November 06, the club responded and served at the Dive Rescue recovery operation in the Milwaukee River at Milwaukee and Erie Streets. Then, a week and a half later, the club served for six hours at the 2nd alarm fire at Miller Compressing Company. This location has become the new frequent customer of the Milwaukee Fire Department (in the last eleven years there have been numerous first alarms, (3) 2nd alarms, & (1) 5th alarm). This time fire was burning inside a building containing recycled air bags and interior car upholstery. The Milwaukee County Fire Department sent a Crash Truck (Rescue 8) to assist in the foam operations. Ironically, the M.F.D. was called back to the same location a week later for fire in a scrap pile, 1st alarm companies making quick work of it. Now on all 1st alarm assignments to Miller Compressing, the High Volume Hose Unit and Rescue 8 are automatically sent.

Then, on November 24th, the club was sent to support the M.F.D.'s Heavy Urban Rescue Team (H.U.R.T.) who were performing a high-angle rope rescue on the smokestacks at the WE Energies Power Plant in the Menomonee Valley (alongside the I-43/94 High-Rise bridge). Five private contractors had been performing emissions control testing when an elevator stalled at 120 ft., trapping one of the contractors. The four remaining contractors were trapped further up at the 270 ft. platform. Temperatures were cold, night was falling fast,



As night falls, crews use an on-site front end loader to access burning materials at Miller Compressing, 11-17-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke



The platforms at the 270' level on the WE Energies power plant smoke stack, site of the high-angle rope rescue, 11-24-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke



H.U.R.T. members prepare a lowering system along the cat ladder to assist the trapped workers, 11-24-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

the wind was blowing, and snow starting in. The H.U.R.T. Team worked for seven hours to set up a lowering system to safely secure and bring the workers to the ground.

Since then, the big news is the purchase of a new (used) vehicle to replace our beloved and aged E.S.U. 1, a 1971 International/Welch (originally a heavy rescue from Salem, Illinois). On December 29th, the M.F.B.C. took delivery of a 2001 Freightliner MT-45/Grumman Olson, purchased from the Box 55 Association of Nashville, Tennessee. Formerly known as Rehab 55, this new vehicle will replace our E.S.U. 1 as Rehab 1. A Truck Committee has been established to best determine the spatial functionality needs of the unit and is working with

L.D.V. of Burlington, Wisconsin, to develop a plan to accomplish these needs. In the mean time, club members have been working feverishly to raise funds to support the remodel project. Hats off to Vice President Annie Hermesen for doing an outstanding job of organizing a recent Craft and Bake show on March 22nd. Annie and her team were successful in raising significant funds toward the project.



A trapped worker descends a cat ladder while the snow picks up, 11-24-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

Milwaukee Fire Department updates

The Milwaukee Fire Department continues to stay busy as the New Year unfolds. A significant greater alarm fire resulted in a Mayday that resulted in a few tense moments for all concerned.

03-31-2015: On the previous night, 03-30, 3rd & 4th Battalion companies responded to a report of smoke

in the hallway of a 3-story ordinary constructed mercantile building (Ground floor contained a bar and dance halls while the 2nd & 3rd floors each contained four apartments) built in 1897. The building at 911-15 S. Cesar Chavez Dr., is located in a neighborhood known for many spectacular fires over the past 30 years. When companies arrived, they found fire in the front stairwell on the 2nd floor leading to the 3rd floor. Smoke quickly filled the structure as occupants in the 2nd and 3rd floor apartments evacuated the rear stairs or jumped to the roofs of the exposure buildings on sides B & D. 2nd & 3rd alarms were struck to chase the fire in the voids and double ceilings. Crews spent four hours performing



Box 55 Association members deliver the "new" Rehab 1 to Fire Bell Club's quarters in West Milwaukee, 12-29-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke



M.F.B.C. members Bob Ristic & Gary Schmidt inspect the interior of the "new" Rehab 1 and discuss remodeling ideas, 12-29-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

salvage and overhaul on the building, last company going home at 0230 hours.

Fast forward five and a half hours later. A local news crew doing a story on the previous fire for the 8 o'clock news noticed wisps of smoke coming from the 2nd floor windows and called 911. 3rd & 4th Battalion companies returned back to find smoke showing from the 2nd floor windows on the A side. Engine 31 & Truck 1 began to force entry through the board ups while Engine 26 took a line to the 2nd floor and Engine 28 took a line to the 3rd floor. Companies on both floors began to open walls and ceilings looking for the source of the smoke. Truck 1 and Rescue 1 pulled double ceilings on the 2nd floor and found heavy fire rolling across the entire length.

At this point, the fire began to rapidly progress up the front stairs to the 3rd floor where Engine 28 was working, joined by Engine 31. Crews experienced heavy heat, no visibility, and rolling black smoke. Engine 31 transmitted a mayday as both companies struggled to find an exit as the I.C. ordered evacuation of the building and transmitted both the 2nd and 3rd alarms, a minute apart. Engine 31 stumbled down the front stairs under the protection of a line operated by Engine 26 while Engine 28 preparing to bail from a 3rd floor window, found a rear stairwell to exit the building. All companies exited the building and performed a PAR, and then a defensive operation was set up. Trucks 1, 2, & 6 operated their water towers on the A side while five deluge sets and several big lines operated also on the A and C sides. A collapse zone was established for fears that the structure could come down at any minute. Primary concern at this point was keeping fire out of the exposures. Companies were picking up by noon and a demolition crew was tearing the structure down by 1700 hours.

911-15 S. Cesar E. Chavez Dr., 03-31-2015

1st alarm (0758 hours)-E26-31-28, TL1-2-T6(RIT), R1, Bn. 3-4-West Allis 1(A), Med 14,
Car 18

S/C (0813 hrs.)-E1-12

S/C (0824 hrs.)-E23-2

S/C (0825 hrs.)-Compressed Air Supply Unit 1

2nd alarm (0827 hrs.)-T9-17, Med 15, Car 3

3rd alarm (0828 hrs.)-E32-7, West Allis T2, Bn. 1, E9, Med 4, & I.C.P., R2, R4

S/C (0833 hrs.)-E24 (bring R4)

S/C (0834 hrs.)-Car 4 (Accountability Chief)

S/C (0848 hrs.)-E33-21

S/C (0904 hrs.)-High Volume Hose Unit

S/C (0915 hrs.)-Car 14

4th alarm (0925 hrs.)-E6

Keen eyed readers will notice a 3rd Battalion Chief responded on the 1st alarm. Since early January, a 3rd Battalion Chief from the Shared Services Initiative now responds as the Accountability Chief. This provides a set of eyes on three sides of the building while Car 18 (Incident Safety Officer) can watch the fourth side and monitor the safety of crews operating both inside and outside of the fire building (s). Readers will also notice West Allis, a Shared Services partner, send their Truck 2 on the 3rd alarm. The M.F.D.'s C.A.D. system has been updated to dispatch the closest, most appropriate resource (regardless of municipal lines).

Greater alarms for 2014 were (10) 2nd alarms and (3) 3rd alarms (17 in 2013 and 33 in 2012). In 2015, we have seen (6) 2nd alarms, (1) 3rd alarm, and (1) 4th alarm so far. Unfortunately, there were ten fire fatalities in 2014 (compared to only 2 the previous year). Busiest companies in 2014 were:

- Busiest engine: Engine 30 (4,678 runs)
- Busiest truck: Truck 12 (2,448 runs)
- Busiest rescue: Rescue 2 (2,409 runs)
- Busiest B.C.: Battalion 1 (1,232 runs)
- Busiest med unit: Med 5 (4,865 runs)
- Busiest firehouse: Engine 36 & Med 5 (8,518 runs)

The Repair Shop has been busy as new apparatus arrives. Engines 26 & 32 each received a new 2015 Pierce Arrow XT 1500/500 pumper. Engine 26's 2006 Pierce Dash will be reassigned to Engine 33. Engine 32's 2011 Pierce Arrow XT will be reassigned to Engine 18, their 2008 Pierce Velocity will be reassigned to Engine 16. The former rigs of Engines 16 & 33 will go to reserve status. Meds 7, 14, & 19 are each receiving a 2015 Freightliner/Wheeled Coach ambulance with numerous bump downs planned. Still on order are (3) Ford Taurus sedans, (2) Chevrolet Suburbans, (1) Chevrolet Tahoe, and (1) Ford Explorer for staff personnel. We hope to have pictures of these vehicles as weather cooperates in the next issue.

As we come to a close, hope the weather warms up, everyone is in good health and can enjoy a muster or shoot the latest rig placed in service. Take care and happy buffing in 2015!

Serving the Community since 1947



(Left) Club members Terry Jo Schmidt & Annie Hermesen (coordinator of the event) staff the check-in table at the Craft & Bake show, 03-22-2015. (Right) : Vendors are busy setting up their spaces at the Craft & Bake show, 03-22-2015. Photos by: Chuck Liedtke



Defensive operation is established on the A side at the 4th alarm fire on Cesar Chavez Drive, 03-31-2015. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke



Engine 28's crew staff a deluge unit outside of the collapse zone, 03-31-2015. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

Remnants of the fire building as Truck 2 inspects for hot spots and structural integrity, 03-31-2015. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke



M.F.B.C. E.S.U.1 & Rehab 2 are ready for business in the rehab area along with Med 15 and the Compressed Air Unit, 03-31-2015. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

Region

9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.

Bell & Siren Club, Inc.

Box 54 Club

Fire Nell Club of New York, Inc.

Gong Club, Inc.

Signal 22 Assn., Inc.

Second Alarmers' Assn. & Rescue
Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.

Third Alarm Association, Inc.

South Jersey Fire Photographers Assc.



GONG CLUB, INC.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle and Ron Jeffers

WINTER WOES

January is never a kind month for firefighting and the 2015 edition was no exception. Jersey City fire fighters battled their first major fire of 2015 on the bitter cold morning of January 8, 2015. Companies responded to 55 Washburn St. at 0030 hours, a 2.5 story dwelling with exposure close by on either side. A basement fire soon extended to all floors and endangered the adjoining properties.

Deputy Chief Michael Terpak wasted no time in transmitting a 2nd Alarm once the advanced extension of fire was known. With the temperature hovering about 5°, more manpower would be needed so a 3rd Alarm followed. Companies spent the better part of the morning bringing the fire under control. Fire fighters, apparatus and equipment were coated in ice. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, operated for over 6 hours with a crew of 3 led by Deputy Chief Pat Spellman. Hot chocolate proved to be the beverage of choice that morning!

The last issue of TURN OUT detailed a 5th Alarm at 201-11 New York Ave., Union City, occurring on May 5, 2014. That fire originated in a corner deli and eventually extended down the block destroying five attached 2.5 story row dwellings in addition to the building of origin. Turn the calendar forward by 8 months and 5 days and here we go again! This time the fire was directly across the street from the May fire, originally reported as a mattress fire at 208 New York Ave. at 0256 hours. North Hudson companies arrived to find not only a mattress involved, but a basement fire rapidly extending to the upper floors. Just as they had across the street, fire fighters were confronted with a rapidly extending fire in a row of 2 story dwellings. To complicate matters more, the temperature was now in the low 20s.



Union City 4-4 208-14 New York Ave., 1/10/15
(Adolf Paasburg Photo)

Deputy Chief Charles Thomas was in command of the North Hudson companies that morning and immediately transmitted a 2nd Alarm. Smoke inundated the entire area, with boxes transmitted in both adjacent Hoboken and Jersey City stemming from the Union City location. Fire was now into the top floor and cockloft, prompting Chief Thomas to transmit a 3rd Alarm. Fire was soon racing throughout the attached structures. More manpower was needed in an attempt to cut off the fire. A 4th Alarm was then transmitted, bringing Jersey City Eng. Co. 8, 17, Lad. Co. 12 and Batt. 3 to the fire.

All hands worked through the night to contain the blaze to the row of buildings on the east side of New York Ave. Fire was declared under control at 0523 hours, but companies remained on the scene well into the morning. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, operated for nearly 7 hours, serving 5 gallons of coffee and 7 gallons of hot chocolate to frozen fire fighters.

The following Sunday, January 11, 2015 was a clear, cold day but thankfully the temperature stood above

freezing. A Harrison police lieutenant was patrolling a quiet section of the small town that included a mix of residential and commercial buildings. Shortly after 1500 hours he was flagged down by a motorist reporting a fire in an industrial building at 401 S. 2nd St. This building was the home of Plaque Art Creations, Inc., a 50 year old family owned business, specializing in the manufacture of plaster sculptures, busts and decorative accessories.



Harrison 4-4 401 S. 2nd St. 1/11/15
(Ron Jeffers Photo)

What initially appeared to be a small fire rapidly extended, eventually engulfing the entire 1 story square block masonry structure. Harrison's engine and ladder responded, with a mutual aid request for East Newark and Kearny companies. This initial mutual aid response would soon be followed with North Hudson Eng. Co. 1-9, Lad. Co. 4, Batt. 1 and Safety 1. Secaucus Eng. Co. 1 and Tower 2 later joined in the fight as the response grew to 3 alarms. These units had no trouble finding the fire; a towering column of black smoke filled the clear blue sky that afternoon.

An exterior attack was waged for hours, protecting exposures across 3 streets and darkening down the heavy body of fire within the factory. 2 towers, 2 ladder pipes and several handlines were operated to bring the fire under control. Thankfully, the temperature remained above freezing for the duration of the fire. Car 26 operated for 5 hours at this fire, serving 6 gallons of coffee, 3 gallons each of Gatorade and hot chocolate and even a gallon of chili!

The West Hudson portion of the county was again the site of January's last major fire. Saturday,

January 31, 2015 was a cloudless, cold day, but the crystal clear horizon would again be blotted by a plume of ominous, black smoke. Shortly after 1400 hours, a raging fire broke out in a truck repair shop at 23 2nd St., Kearny. The South Kearny industrial area is a peninsula, hemmed by the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers and the Newark Bay. The one story metal clad structure is beneath the Pulaski Skyway, near the South Kearny off ramp. Kearny Eng. Co. 4 is first due in this part of the town and found the building heavily involved upon arrival. The company immediately went into a deck gun, attempting to hold the fire to the building of origin, until the remainder of the Kearny companies arrived from Uptown.

Deputy Chief Robert Osborn assumed command and soon realized that his companies would need a lot more help. The repair shop was burning furiously and threatened the adjacent building housing the field office for the Pulaski Skyway reconstruction project. The Skyway is in the midst of a 2 year rebuilding project requiring the complete closure of its inbound lanes. The last thing motorists needed was a further delay in its reopening.



Kearny 4-4 23 2nd St., 1/31/15
(Pat Spellman Photo)

The response escalated to a 4th Alarm, bring quite a variety of companies from throughout Hudson County to the fire. Units operating, in addition to all Kearny companies, included:

- Harrison Eng. Co. 3
- East Newark Lad. Co. 2
- FDJC Eng. Co. 15-2 Lad. Co. 9 Marine Unit Batt. 4
- North Hudson Eng. Co. 1-9 Lad. Co. 4 Batt. 1 Safety 1
- Bayonne Eng. Co. 6 Lad. Co. 3
- Hoboken Eng. Co. 2
- North Arlington Rescue 5

An impressive water display of master steams from

Kearny Eng. Co. 4, Ladder Tower 2, East Newark Lad. Co. 2 and Jersey City Lad. Co. 9 held the fire to the building of origin. The repair shop, its equipment and several tractors under repair were a total loss. Even more impressive was the ice show resulting from the hours of heavy streams pounding the building. Everything, apparatus, fire fighters and the surrounding environs were covered in ice.

Car 26 operated with a crew of 6 members for nearly 5 hours. Frigid fire fighters enjoyed brief respites from the cold, consuming 3 gallons of coffee, 6 gallons of hot chocolate and 3 gallons of ravioli.

SAD DUTY

Jersey City fire fighters were shocked to learn one of their own, Fire Fighter James Woods, Eng. Co. 14, died suddenly on Christmas Day. Fire Fighter Woods had swapped tours and worked Christmas Eve, but was stricken during family gathering on December 25, 2014. Nearly 200 fire fighters assembled for a full departmental funeral on a frigid December 30, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church in Jersey City.

This sad chain of events was repeated on February 27, 2015 when Fire Fighter Thomas Pilovsky passed away suddenly while on a vacation trip to South Carolina. Again the long blue line gathered at St. Joseph's Church on March 6, 2015 to give Fire Fighter Pilovsky a final salute. Department Chaplain, Rev. James Pagnotta, celebrated the Masses of Christian Burial for both members.

The Gong Club's Car 26 had the privilege of serving fire fighters at both funerals. In addition, the Club served members of the Jersey City Police Department and other police officers on 2 successive Saturdays, December 27, 2014 and January 3, 2015, at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. The park was used as a muster point for officers attending the funerals of the two NYPD officers who were murdered in Brooklyn on December 20, 2014.

Officers first gathered on the Saturday after Christmas for the Funeral of Officer Rafael Ramos and then on the first Saturday of the New Year for the funeral of Police Officer Wenjian Liu. Prior to

boarding buses for the trip to Brooklyn, the Gong Club served hot beverages to the officers paying tribute to their fallen brothers.

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

The Gong Club had its share of tragedy when Member Kenneth Pogan passed away suddenly at his residence on February 11, 2015, a few days shy of his 67th birthday. Kenny was well known in buffing circles and was equally a popular and respected member of the F. D. N. Y. Appointed to the Department in 1973, Kenny served in Squad 3, Eng. Co. 28, Squad 1 and finally aide to Battalion Chief John Calderone in Battalion 22 on Staten Island.

Although his 33 year career ended in 2006, he remained active with a number of F. D. N. Y groups, especially the Friends of the Firefighters organization in Brooklyn. Kenny had been a member of the Gong Club since September 10, 1999. His son, Lt. Kenneth Pogan, Jr., follows in his dad's footsteps, currently assigned to the 15th Division of the F. D. N. Y.

Despite a cold, snowy morning, the long blue line assembled at the Blessed Sacrament Church on Staten Island for the Funeral. The procession was led by Batt. 22, Tower Ladder 79 and Car 26. All Battalion 22 companies assembled at St. Peter's Cemetery on Clove Rd., Staten Island, for a final salute. Rest in peace, Fire Fighter Pogan!

PIERCE RETURNS!

After purchasing American LaFrance and then Crimson / Spartan apparatus in the recent past, Jersey City is again receiving deliveries of Pierce rigs!

Although usually assigned a tower ladder, Lad. Co. 6 had been running with a 2000 E-One 110' rear mount that originally saw service with Lad. Co. 9. However, Lad. Co. 6 is now a tower once again! A 2014 95' Pierce ladder tower was placed in service for the New Year.

The oldest rig in front line service, a 2000 Pierce Saber assigned to Eng. Co. 7, was replaced with a 2014 Pierce 1500 GPM Saber in January 2015. Next on the assembly line is another Pierce for Eng. Co. 15

to replace their 2001 model Pierce Saber.



Jersey City Marine Unit
(Ron Jeffers Photo)

When not sailing the bounding main, the Marine Unit is assigned citywide as a manpower unit on all working fires. The company had been running with a utility truck, but has now received a 2014 Ford F550 Firematic BRAT equipped with a 250 GPM pump and a 200 gallon tank. With this new addition, the company can now take still alarms in the immediate vicinity of their Liberty State Park quarters.

Secaucus and North Hudson finalized an agreement in March 2015 to swap equipment. North Hudson is giving Secaucus a 1988 32' Monarch fireboat in exchange for Secaucus' 1994 Seagrave 75' tower ladder. Secaucus Tower 2 is expecting delivery of a 2015 Rosenbauer 88' ladder tower imminently. This will be the first Rosenbauer in Hudson County and the first tower for North Hudson.



Jersey City Engine Co. 7
2014 Pierce Saber 1500 / 500
(Ron Jeffers Photo)



Jersey City Ladder Co. 6
2014 Pierce Arrow XT 95'
(Ron Jeffers Photo)

The Bell and Siren Club, Inc.

By Nancy Renzuli

We are pleased to introduce the officers of the Bell and Siren Club for 2015:

President: Tom Pelaia
Vice President: Otis Johnson
Secretary: Ira Cohen
Treasurer: Lois Tanis

Chairman Exec. Committee: Bill Hicks
Member Exec Committee: Leon White
Member Exec Committee Joe Bray
Member Exec. Committee: G. Ottley

With spring in the air and the last of the snow gone for the season we are pleased that after a long hiatus to once again submit an article to the IFBA Turnout Magazine. Our passion and commitment to the fire service covers day, night, noon, good weather or bad. Simply put we care as you do about fire fighters and the job they do.



The Bell and Siren Canteen

First off we would like to share that on December 10th 2014 at our holiday party we commemorated our 65th anniversary serving Newark Fire. We celebrated at Iberia Restaurant in Newark, NJ, our long-standing tradition of aiding fire fighters. We were very fortunate that the IFBA President Ken Beliveau, as well as the Director of Publicity Stuart M. Nathan, and Vice President Region 9 Connie Spellman joined our festivity. With that, many fire chiefs from throughout the county attended and shared with us words of thanks.

2014 Holiday/ 65th Bell& Siren Anniversary



Many guests attended the 65th Anniversary Party including IFBA President Ken Beliveau, IFBA Director of Publicity Stu Nathan and members of our neighboring club The Gong Club

Our President Tom Pelaia also conveyed a life membership to Newark Fire retiring Battalion Chief Damian Emerick for his long tradition of supporting our club. Battalion Chief Emerick as well as many

fire fighters expressed their appreciation for our hard work. Everyone at the party had a lovely time, shared stories, and had a delicious dinner.

Ira Cohen receives the 2014 Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year Award



Ira Cohen proudly displays the Fire Buff of the Year award at the Annual IFBA Convention Banquet. Also in the picture is former Fire Buff of the Year Award Committee Chairman Phil Reid

Our Secretary Ira Cohen received the prestigious Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year Award at the Annual IFBA Convention in Dallas Texas on September 6, 2014. On October 15, 2014 we honored Secretary Cohen with a celebration at the Forest Hill Field Club. As a 50-year member of the Bell and Siren Club, Secretary Cohen from a very young age made a commitment to the well being of fire fighters that continues on today. We could not be happier that he was awarded the impressive acknowledgement.

2015 begins with responses to fires both inside and outside of our area

Getting to our call volume, this year, 2015 started slow. Our first call did not come until January 10th 2015 at 7:47 pm with a 2nd alarm fire at 116 Hollywood Ave East

Orange. Thirty-five fire fighters from seven different local departments including Newark responded to the 2-½-story type 5 structure and thankfully rescued 5 children and three adults. One adult was just steps from the front door with horrible burns. With the freezing cold weather and the water from the firefight first responders were slipping and sliding on the ice. We were glad to make the frigid day a bit better. Sadly the second story fire could have been put out without such destruction if there had been **smoke alarms** but there were none.

As a long tradition we have serviced the urban city of Newark NJ located in Essex County as well as the communities of East Orange, Bloomfield, and South Orange. This year on March 12th 2015 at 9 a.m. our service expanded with a special call to Union County. With that, we went into the town of Elizabeth, NJ for a 3rd alarm fire. On arrival to the fire scene at Keith's Upholstery at 962 Sherman Ave in Elizabeth, many fire fighters from Union County were working diligently. On scene blaring flames were bursting from the commercial building along with very heavy black smoke that was piping from multi purpose two-story building. Several master streams and engine deck guns, along with 2½ -hand lines all worked hard to put the fire out. With the elevated alarm fire fighters from many surrounding towns appreciated our service. We believe life all comes down to the simple things and that makes any day better.



Firefighters on the scene at 962 Sherman Avenue in Elizabeth NJ



East Orange Ladder 2 operates at supermarket fire at 935 South Orange Ave.

The very next day we had special run to Newark NJ St Patrick's Day Parade. While lined up in a staging area for the parade, we again were called out to 935 South Orange Ave in East Orange, NJ for a third alarm fire. On arrival to Fine Fare Supermarket at that address, smoke was pounding out of vented windows and the roof. The basement fire quickly took off through all floors to the roof and consumed the building. Luckily exposures of nearby building were protected as well as no loss of life.



An East Orange Firefighter using an exterior line on the supermarket fire in East Orange



The Newark Firefighters Pipe band assemble for the 2015 Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade

Only a few days prior on March 9th at 5:14pm we were called to a huge 2nd alarm fire at 45-81 Doremus Ave in Newark, NJ. Four workers were injured at the industrial building fire with one having such horrible burns from the explosion that he was transported to St Barnabas Hospital Burn Center. Driving to the scene, heavy black smoke pillowed out so strongly from the area that it could be seen clearly for miles. Closer to the scene, flames could clearly be seen shooting from the roof and black smoke pouring from the building into the air. Incident command had their hands full

with such a large fire and explosion covering multiple addresses of the commercial type 2 building but with team work 2 ½" hose line ran, tower ladder master stream flowed along with deck guns and most importantly PAR accountability ensured all fire fighters were safe. The building housed a chemical company, and with that reportedly housed numerous chemicals as well as propane. Several tanks were also being stored in the area around the building. With such dangers, we went on scene and provided many fire fighters with nutrition and made the hard work a bit easier.



Aerial Views of 45-81 Doremus Ave Newark Fire

The risks of lightweight modern construction on the fire ground became very evident on January 21st 2015 at the Avalon Luxury Edgewater Complex. The Seven alarm Fire caused rapid fire spread and collapse occurred leaving 400 families without a home. Edgewater NJ is located in Bergen County NJ which is the largest County in the State of New Jersey. At the height of the fire 35 of Bergen County's 68 Fire Departments were working at the fire. For years, fire fighters have warned of the possibility with such construction and sadly foretold such an incident. A recent UL study found that untreated 2x10 framing wood has a failure time elapse of 18 minutes 30 seconds while engineered lightweight joist only lasts 6 minutes 30 seconds. The mammoth fire was so vast it consumed multiple residential buildings and destroyed a whole complex. Mutual aid was quickly needed. The Box 54 Club called the Bell and Siren Club who answered the call making the day a bit easier.



Many Aerial Devices work at the Edgewater NJ Conflagrations



The effects of fire on lightweight building materials at the Edgewater NJ Conflagration

In closing, we would like to invite you to our newly constructed Facebook page www.facebook.com/bellandsirenclub, maintained by our executive member Otis Johnson, as well as an updated online site www.bellandsirenclub.org made possible by of our President Tom Pelaia. Please if you are going to be in the area, give us a call and stop in.

Region

10

Box 43 Association
Club Appel-99 Quebec
The Ontario Fire Buffs
Associates, Inc.
Greater Toronto
Multiple Alarm Assn.
Pompiers Auxiliaires de
Montréal

CLUB APPEL 99



By : Editorial Staff & Heidi S.

Club Appel 99 is a group of 32 French speaking fire buffs in Quebec City, who are dedicated to the mission of the fire service.

The club, founded in 1989, is a non-profit organization. Most members are civilian volunteers. In 2004, the club was the host of the IFBA Convention in the « Ville de Québec ».

One of the club's main missions is to collect and preserve artifacts that are significant in the life of a fire department. Moreover, the club owns a collection of hundreds of books, magazines, papers and photographs in both English and French.

Another task of the club is to support the Quebec City Fire Department in staffing the Unit 1299 Canteen during extended operations on major fires. Members respond to second alarms upon request, as well as automatically to all three alarm fires and other events like training exercises and HAZMAT incidents. The unit canteen is Quebec City Fire Department's property but is managed by Club Appel 99.

Day and night, members are ready to hand out free coffee, hot chocolate, Gatorade, cookies and other food to firefighters and other emergency workers. During the winter in Quebec City, nights are very cold and temperatures can reach a frigid minus 30° C.



Unit 1299 Canteen supporting a group of firefighters in downtown – Photo: Garey Côté, Club Appel 99, August 2014, Quebec City.



Moving into a new hall – Photo: Gilles Lavoie & Garey Côté, Club Appel 99, June 2013, Quebec City.

One year ago, the club moved into a new hall on the third floor of Fire House #1 in midtown Quebec City.

Recently, the club, which has been planning for a small museum section, took possession of three old fire engines. The engines were a gift from the Quebec City Fire Department.

Special call: 211 hours of consecutive service!

To be on service for nine consecutive days was not an easy task for Club Appel 99's members and the Unit 1299 Canteen.

On November 27, 2014, in downtown Quebec City, a crew of workers were sounding the ground in the backyard of a hospital for a future extension. On one side of the site was the hospital and on the other side, a senior's residence, which was home to about sixty five senior citizens. Suddenly, the crew punched a hole into a pocket of natural gas. As the gas was under high pressure, it began to spew into the air.

A few minutes later, firefighters were on the scene to evaluate the situation.

The hospital's buildings were at a safe distance from the leak, but the senior's residence was less than 150 feet away. At that point, the residents were evacuated from their home.

Time was running out and it was important for the fire department to find a safe solution, but the size of the natural gas pocket was not known.

Several hoses were stretched to douse the area, a metal chimney was built over the pocket to create a « well » and the gas was ignited. Many times the flames blew out. Finally, nine days later, pressure decreased and firefighters and a crew from Alberta sealed the well.

In December, during the cold nights in Quebec City, firefighters, police officers, first responders, ambulance staff, Hydro Québec workers, engineer firms and civil servants have all appreciated Club Appel 99's work very much !



Dousing the unexpected well and the drilling equipment – Photo Gilles Lavoie, SPIQ & Club Appel 99, November 2014, Quebec City.



Nine consecutive days on service – Photo (L) Garey Côté; (R) Gilles Lavoie; Club Appel 99, December 2014. Quebec City



THE ONTARIO FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES

By Walt McCall

More than four decades after the club was formed, the *Ontario Fire Buff Associates* is still going strong, serving Canadian fire buffs from coast to coast, and beyond. Founded in 1971, the OFBA today has more than 120 members, from the Maritime Provinces to British Columbia, in the United States, and overseas.

Interestingly, however, Canada's only national fire buff organization traces its origins to an antique fire engine muster in Syracuse, N.Y. In August, 1968, the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire apparatus in America – better known as SPAAMFAA – held its first antique fire engine parade and muster in Syracuse, not all that far from the Canadian border. Among the hundreds of fire buffs and others with an interest in old fire trucks who attended this milestone event were a number of Canadians.

The next year's Syracuse Muster was even bigger and even more Canadians returned to Syracuse for the second SPAAMFAA Muster. Again, there were handshakes all around, and those present agreed that there should be a similar organization in Canada. The original idea was to form a Canadian chapter of SPAAMFAA-- but as plans progressed we realized the Canadian club would cover a much broader range of firematic interests than just antique apparatus.

So, after a halting start, the Ontario Fire Buffs Association became a reality in the spring of 1971. Our Charter President was Harold McMann of Toronto, who today still proudly carries OFBA membership card No. 1 in his wallet.

The club's first membership roster listed 26 names. The fledgling OFBA held its first annual meeting in conjunction with the Ontario Fire Fighters Association convention in Aurora, north of Toronto, in August of that year. Within three years, OFBA membership had passed the 100 mark. Charter member John Holden of Oshawa published the first issue of the club's newsletter, *The Third Alarm* that summer. The OFBA officially became an IFBA affiliate –seemingly appropriate since the International Fire Buffs Association was founded at the International Association of Fire Chiefs convention in Toronto in 1953. The club changed its name to the *Ontario Fire Buff Associates* in 1979.

And the rest, as they say, is history. It's been an eventful 44 years, with countless meetings and visits to fire departments all over Ontario and in the neighboring United States. While the club has members in most Canadian provinces, the bulk of our membership is concentrated in the Province of Ontario. The OFBA hosted the 1978 International Fire Buff Associates convention in Toronto in 1978, and OFBA members are always in attendance at annual IFBA conventions.

For most of its history, the OFBA's principal activity has been fire department photo tours. Arrangements are made in advance to visit fire departments around the province. Typically, six such tours are scheduled from May into October. Depending on distance (and weather) anywhere from a dozen to 30 or more OFBA members participate in the one or two-day photo tours.



A large group attended the tour of the Burlington Fire Department in May, 2014. (Desmond Brett photo)

At each station, apparatus is driven out onto the station apron or the street and carefully posed for these serious fire truck photographers. The fast-paced Saturday tour schedule covers anywhere from half a dozen to eight or more stations with the tours extending into late afternoon. Over the years we've hosted more than a few two-day weekend tours to larger metropolitan fire departments. These very sociable club events have taken us as far afield as Ottawa and Windsor, at opposite ends of the province, and to Buffalo and other departments in upstate New York. We've had photo tours at several Canadian Armed Forces bases, as

well as Toronto's Pearson International Airport. For many years, Sarnia member Herb Gallaway was our special events tour organizer, a responsibility assumed by Hamilton OFBA member Ken Buchanan for 2014 and by a committee of the board of directors for 2015.

The OFBA's other big annual event is its Fire Service Collectibles Show and Sale held the morning of the first Saturday in November at the Toronto Fire Services Training Academy in downtown Toronto. This busy fire flea market is followed by



Members and guests attend the 2014 edition of the Annual Show and Sale at the Toronto Fire Academy on November 1. (Desmond Brett photo)

our annual general meeting, which includes a report by our IFBA Region 10 representative.

In 1979 the OFBA acquired a classic 1949 American-LaFrance 700 Series high pressure monitor, one of only two ever built, from the Toronto Fire Department. Once a familiar sight at Ontario musters and parades, High Pressure Monitor No. 2 has been on inactive status of late because of various mechanical problems. After many years of storage at the Box 43 Club's quarters in Hamilton, it's now in the Toronto Fire Services workshop where the mechanical staff are working on it on a spare time basis.

Our *Third Alarm* newsletter is published bimonthly, in both electronic and hard copy formats. Members have the option of receiving either, or both. Our very capable newsletter editor is Desmond Brett, who took over, in 2011, from Walt



McCall who edited *The Third Alarm* for a remarkable 37 years.

In November 2013, Robert Rupert succeeded Rick Loiselle as OFBA President. Rick served on our Board of Directors for 22 years, 18 as President; from 1991-97 and from 2001 to 2013. Our current executive includes: Robert Rupert, President; Dave Mollison, Vice President; Larry Ward, Secretary; Jim Stronach, Treasurer; Robert Herscovitch, Membership Secretary; Directors Walt McCall, Mike Gough, Des Brett; Past President Rick

Loiselle, and Ian Duke, IFBA Region 10 Vice President.

In 2011, the OFBA hosted a special dinner to mark its 40th anniversary. Among the attendees were several of our original members. Our next major milestone will be our 50th Anniversary in 2021 – which isn't really all that far off. The Ontario Fire Buffs Association is proud of its long, active partnership with the International Fire Buff Associates. Check out our website at www.ofba.ca for photos, links to other sites and our schedule of photo tours.



Outgoing President Rick Loiselle (left) accepts a plaque given by the Club in honour of his 22 years service on the board. Current President Bob Rupert made the presentation. (Desmond Brett photo)

