

TURN OUT

SPRING 2016



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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.”



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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

TURN OUT 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.

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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**.

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IFBA 2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

HOSTED BY REGION 5



IFBA 2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Thank you for registering to attend the 2016 IFBA Annual Convention hosted by **REGION 5**
(Greater Houston Fire Battalion, Signal 51 Group, Fire Fighting Historical Society and Box4 Fire Buff Association)

You will need to complete a *separate* registration form for each individual attending.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Relationship _____

Phone Number _____

CLUB AFFILIATION:

Club Name _____

Officer _____ Position _____ Alternate _____ Delegate _____

Have you attended a previous IFBA convention? ☐ YES ☐ NO

T-Shirt size (included with FULL registration): ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ 2XL

IFBA 2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

HOSTED BY REGION 5



CONVENTION INFORMATION:

Please select the type of registration you would like:

☐ Full Convention Registration – Prior to July 1, 2016 - \$300.00 USD

☐ Full Convention Registration – After July 1, 2016 - \$325.00 USD

Per Event Pricing

☐ Saturday – Closing Banquet \$45.00 USD

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Hotel Name: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – New Orleans, LA
Hotel Address: 300 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Group Code: **FBA**
Rates: \$129.00 per night
Phone Number: (504) 581-1300

Overnight Valet Parking \$26.00 per day
Free Breakfast for 2, per room, per day.
Free shuttle within 3-mile radius.

MEALS:

Full Convention Registration include the following meals:

Thursday: LUNCH (Dinner on your own)
Friday: LUNCH (Dinner on your own)
Saturday: LUNCH (Banquet Dinner)

Banquet Dinner Meal Choice: ☐ Chicken ☐ Beef

PAYMENT INFORMATION (USD Only):

☐ Check
☐ Money Order

Please send payment in USD and Registration Form to:

Box 4 Fire Buff Association, Inc.
c/o Karen Hoskins
225 Fox Hollow Blvd.

IFBA 2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

HOSTED BY REGION 5



IFBA 2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION ITINERARY & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ALL EVENTS AND SCHEDULED TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Tuesday August 16th

7 :00pm - Executive Board Meeting, dinner on your own.

Wednesday August 17th

9:00am - Opening ceremony at the DoubleTree (host) hotel.

10:00am -11:30am - Chief Tommy Stone St Bernard FD Hurricane Katrina presentation.

12:00pm - Business Meeting (After the Meeting enjoy the Crescent City and dinner on your own).

Thursday August 18th

8:30am -Board buses

Tour New Orleans EMS, those members who appear on NIGHTWATCH will be available if this is their shift.
(lunch delivered)

Visit newest NOFD Station Engine 39 in the lower 9th Ward.

Lower 9th ward Katrina tour levee break

New Orleans 911 center tour or

NOFD Fire Museum (alternating tours)

2:00pm - Enjoy the Crescent City (dinner on your own).

Friday August 19th

8:30am -Board buses

Tour Gretna Fire Museum

Tour Terry town VFD working Ahrens Fox (lunch delivered)

Tour David Crockett VFD oldest continuously operating volunteer company in the United States.

Tour Jefferson Parish EOC

2:00pm -Enjoy the Crescent City (dinner on your own).

Saturday August 20th

8:30am -Board buses

New Orleans Fire Department Apparatus Line up

(Box Lunch at a fire station)

Afternoon tour of fire stations and venues of interest

2:00pm -Enjoy the Crescent City

6:00pm -Reception - DoubleTree (host) hotel - cash bar

7:00pm -Banquet and closing ceremony in host hotel

Region

4

Box 15 Club, Inc.

Box 27 Associates

Box 42 Associates, Inc.

Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.

Fire Notification Network of Michigan

Western Reserve Fire Museum of
Cleveland Ohio, Inc.



Box 15 Club, Inc. 501(c)(3)

Affiliate of International Fire Buff Associates
Affiliate of the Ohio Association for Rehab Support

Greetings from Central Ohio.

Sunday, April 10 was a rather bittersweet day. It was our Annual Firefighter Awards Dinner, but the day started about 4 AM when we were dispatched to a SWAT/Working Fire situation in the north end of Columbus. The barricaded suspect, who was being served a warrant for arson, shot SWAT officer Steven Smith and set his own apartment on fire. Ultimately, the 6 unit apartment building was gutted, 5 other residents were left homeless and the police officer, a 27 year veteran of the Columbus Police Department, was critically injured. Sadly, Officer Smith succumbed to his injuries and died two days later. Rehab 1 remained on scene for several hours while the suspect was finally apprehended and the fire department was then allowed to fight the fire. Then in the evening, we were able to hold our planned event, honoring three firefighters and five Box 15 members. We also held the drawing for the tee shirt quilt that was donated by "Quilters on the Canal".

Columbus firefighters Eric Norman and Mark Foster both were recognized with the Max Haverman "Outstanding Columbus Firefighter" award, while Lt. K. J. Watts with the City of Lancaster received the Larry Parlett "Outstanding County Firefighter" award. All three recipients are truly outstanding individuals who demonstrate great professionalism. We are pleased to be able to honor them.



Award recipients (L to R) Box 15 President Bob Hess, member J. J. Corcella, Columbus firefighter Eric Norman, Columbus firefighter Mark Foster, Lancaster Lt. K. J. Watts, member Jerry Keaton, Treasurer Brett Barber & VP Joseph O' Brien

Box 15 President, Bob Hess, along with VP Joseph O'Brien and members J. J. Corcella and Jerry Keaton all received the Peter Fowler "Distinguished Service" award while Past President and current Treasurer Brett Barber was presented the Harry Knodel "Outstanding Service" award.

At the end of the evening, we held the drawing for the Fire Department Tee Shirt Quilt, with Teresa Robinson being the winner. Many thanks go to quilters Jackie Whitehead, who created the quilt top and Joyce Barrett who did the actual quilt assembly. This was a very successfully fundraiser for Box 15.



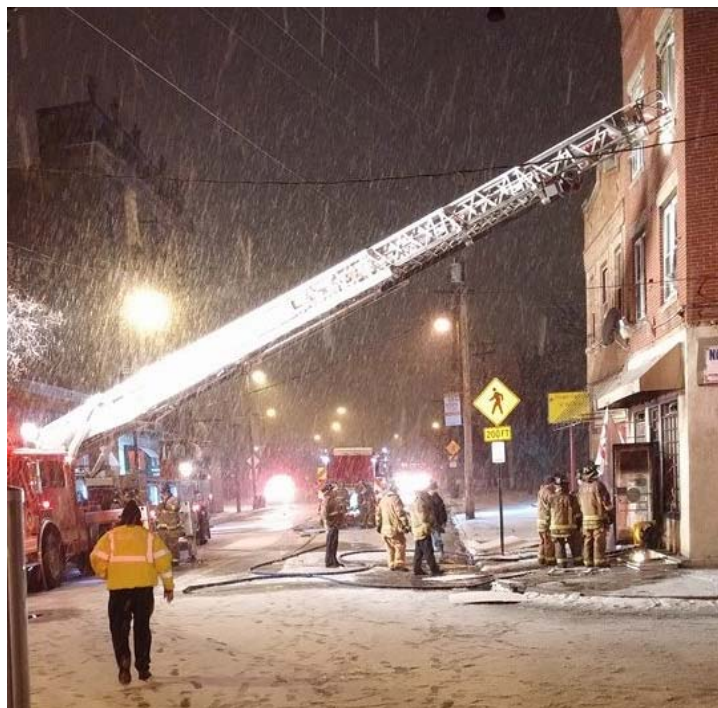
Quilt drawing w/Brett Barber & Quilters Jackie Whitehead & Joyce Barrett

Response Activity

Thus far, 2016 has been pretty typical run-wise. In January, we responded to 9 fires, pulled two shifts of cold (sub-zero degrees) weather standby and participated at "First Responders Night" with the International Firefighters Cancer Foundation. Unfortunately, two fires, only three days apart, were double fatality incidents.

The first run of 2016 occurred on January 2. It was followed by back-to-back runs on January 11. These fires were on adjacent properties (not related, though).

On January 17, with wind chills at -20° F, we responded out to Canal



Extra Company Fire in a snow storm

Winchester for a fire and the following day, at the end of a cold weather standby, Rehab 1 went to the first of the two fatal fires – this one on the west side of Columbus. Overnight, on January 22, we were called out to the second fatal fire – an apartment building near Mt. Carmel West Hospital. Two children perished in that blaze. Our final fire in January was on the 31st, again on the west side of Columbus. This one was a fully involved neighborhood church.



Refinery fire on Feb. 14

Then in February, we had two additional cold weather standbys and five more fires. A two alarm house fire in Norwich Township was followed by five fires in three days during another bitter cold stretch February 13th through the 15th. Two were house fires, then a 3-story taxpayer, a hospital fire and a waste oil refinery. The rest of the month was quiet.

March was very quiet with only three fire responses; however, we did participate in the Columbus St. Patrick's Day parade, along with several Columbus Fire companies. On the 2nd, we had back-to-back responses – a 2 alarmer in an apartment building and then a fully involved single family residence. We also provided roving support services for the ongoing Home Fire Safety Smoke Alarm campaign conducted by the American Red Cross. This was our eighth time out with the Red Cross and we have three more activities scheduled in the upcoming months.

A Great Fundraiser

If anyone regularly visits our Facebook page, you've seen the fire department tee shirt quilt that we were raffling. This turned out to be one of the best fundraisers we've ever held. After all the expenses (ticket printing, advertising, etc.), we netted nearly \$3,400. We sincerely thank everyone who supported us through ticket purchases, the Quilters on the Canal organization who produced the quilt, the many fire departments that donated shirts, and our members who worked hours visiting fire stations and selling tickets. Proceeds have been placed in our apparatus and equipment fund to help with the cost of replacing Rehab 3 – a 25+ year old truck that has traveled nearly 200,000 miles.

Box 15 in 2016

We have been fortunate to have a great mix of personnel, ranging from members in their early 20s to some with many years of service. One member has been in the fire service for 54 years. Pictured below is Rehab 1 and most of our current membership.



Front row (L-R) Jerry Keaton, Chris Maupin, John Kuczek, Mory Fuhrmann, Ryan Karr, Brett Goldstein, Tom Knowles & Josh Meyer. Standing (L-R): Joe O'Brien, J. J. Corcella, Pam Murphy, Greg Northrop, Life Member David Vaughn, Brett Barber, President Bob Hess, Jim Henderson, Lisa Phillips, Pete Fricke & Skip Clegg. Not pictured: Paul Adams, Dick Evans, Josh Gibson, Joe Penty, Kevin Shop and Tom Swisher

If you ever find yourself visiting or even traveling through Central Ohio, give us a call at (614) 585-9120 and let's see if we can do some buffing – or at least show you around. Until the next issue of Turnout – Be Safe Out There!

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 Service
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 &



By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

The last several months have been very tragic, not only for the Chicago Fire Department, but also for the 5-11 Club. On December 14, 2015, Firefighter Daniel Capuano was fatally injured after falling down an open and unmarked elevator shaft while fighting a fire in a south east side warehouse that was under renovation. Heavy smoke conditions had impaired the responding firefighter's visibility. Firefighter Capuano was a 15 year veteran of the CFD. The 5-11 Club canteens were utilized in assisting attendees of FF Capuano's memorial service and funeral.

Two of our long time members also passed away recently. On November 12th, Arthur Hausman, Jr., a retired firefighter and an associate member of the 5-11 Club for 20 years, died. Art was a fire buff who could be found at many north side firehouses kibitzing with the on-duty shift members. Bernie Fye, a member of the 5-11 Club since 1978, passed away on November 28th. Bernie was an officer and driver on the Salvation Army canteens and was a driver on the 5-11 Club canteen until health concerns prohibited him from activity participating in the canteen operations. Both of these men will be greatly missed by the Club membership.

Fire action has slowed this year due in part to our mild winter. In 2015, the City experienced only 30 multiple alarm fires of which 24 were 2-11s, five 3-11s and one 4-11. This was the lowest multiple alarm total in the last 15 years.

One large fire that recently occurred was on March 8, 2016. The 4-11 fire, with a haz-mat situation, began in a one story 200,000 square foot enclosed flea market. The cement roof was used as a parking lot and as an auto storage facility. The concrete roof eventually caved in, dumping many of the autos into the inferno below. Firefighters were on the scene for three days. An ATF team, on the scene for six days, determined the fire to be electrical in origin. This same flea market was the scene of a prior 4-11 that occurred in 1990. The 5-11 Club canteens operated on the scene for over 120 hours.



Deluge wagon 6-7-3 operating at Corner B-C of the 4-11 flea market fire (Photo by Mike Penchar)



4-11 flea market fire on Haddon. Looking east on Division Street (*Photo by Mike Penchar*)



4-11 flea market fire on Haddon. Corner B-C (*Photo by Mike Penchar*)



4-11 flea market fire on Haddon, Side D (Photo by Mike Penchar)

On the apparatus scene, several recent purchases have arrived and have been placed into service. Three new aerial towers have been and assigned to trucks: 14, 34 and 39. The new towers are Emergency-One Cyclone II with a 100 ft. aerial/basket. They are equipped with extended outriggers and rail side running lights as a safety feature. Two new air mask service units are now in service. These units are on the street seven days a week delivering refilled air bottles to Chicago's firehouses. They also respond to all multiple alarm fires. Numerous Ford Explorer SUVs have been received and assigned to district chiefs, commanders, support staff and the office of Fire Investigation. An additional order has been placed for 2016 Ford SUVs for battalion chiefs and EMS officers. The majority of the 2015-16 Ford F150 ambulances have been received and placed into service with a portion of them having gasoline engines as a cost-saving measure. As of this writing, there is no new information regarding the three two-piece units of the Rosenbauer squads. The units for Squads 1, 2, and 5, are scheduled to be built this year with delivery set for late 2016.



Tower Ladder 14, one of three new Emergency One tower ladders (Photo by Josh Boyajian)



Please mark your calendars for June 18, 2016. The 5-11 Club, along with the Fire Buffs of Illinois, will again hold their 22nd Annual Fire Muster and Flea Market, at the Quinn Fire Academy. The event, which is free, runs from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. See our website for more details.

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.

REGION 6 MEETING NASHVILLE, TN

JUNE 24-26, 2016

Vickie Mokros, Region 6 Vice President

BOX 55 Association Nashville treated the members of Region 6 to a weekend filled with camaraderie, buffing, shared ideas, and lots of good food.

We were greeted on Friday afternoon with many members from BOX 55 at their welcome



Iconic "BATMAN" building in downtown Nashville

table, where we received ID badges allowing us past fire lines, a package with numerous items in it, and plans for the weekend. We were excited to know that two Nashville Fire Department vans, with drivers, were going to be used for transportation throughout the weekend. That certainly helped Friday evening when we all headed to BB Kings for dinner, in downtown Nashville.

The food and music was awesome and again we had a chance to reconnect with



friends and make new ones.

Region 6's annual meeting was held Saturday morning at Fire Department Headquarters with a welcome by Fire Chief Rick White. One highlight of the meeting was the attendance of two TN organizations that are applying for membership in the IFBA. The two clubs are Box 100 of Laverne, TN and Rehab 23 of Wilson County, TN. You will get a chance to meet some of their members at the IFBA Convention in New Orleans this coming August. A big thank you to BOX 55 for reaching out to them and including them in our meeting. Another highlight was the election of Dennis Ahrens, 511 Club Chicago, as the new Region 6 Vice President. I stepped aside when Dennis indicated an interest in running for the position.

For our next events we were divided into two groups, one heading to the Metro ECC Communications and Dispatch Center and the other to ride and watch a demonstration on Fire Boat 9. We then switched venues. A spaghetti meal was held at Station 9, which we then toured.

After Station 9 we went to Station 19 for a tour and apparatus display and that's also where we saw Hazmat 13. We then left to return to the hotel for an informal meeting about future conventions. There were approximately twelve of us that discussed many aspects of conventions



and those ideas will be shared with others at the Convention in August. (Also present at this discussion was Bob Sherwood, Region 1 Vice President, who came to Nashville for the weekend with his wife Cindy. It was encouraging to see others give suggestions and participate.)

Buffing continued until we all left for dinner at Monell's. We were joined by other members of the Fire Department and again had a great meal. Near the end of the meal some of us joined BOX 55 members as they headed to a fire. The members of BOX 55 made themselves available for night time buffing and said they would call us if anything happened overnight.

Sunday morning brought another good hotel breakfast and more time for a number of us to sit around and talk. Some of us explored Nashville for the rest of Sunday and left on Monday morning. Bob and Cindy stayed until Tuesday.

All of us had a great time in Nashville, and hopefully we'll get there again. Thanks BOX 55 Association!



Rehab support unit took in a working fire. Turned out to be smoke filled home from a careless cook





INDIANAPOLIS FIRE BUFFS

TURN OUT SPRING 2016

Indianapolis Fire Buffs continue to experience increased membership during 2016. Angie Averett, Brian Asbury and David McGowan have been admitted; Randy Cox has moved from Associate to Active, and Robert Sowers has been readmitted as an Active member.

Our 1967 Maxim antique engine continues to be used for special events, including Indianapolis' St. Patrick's Day parade.

Keith Ross, chief of Pittsboro, IN FD and president of Hendricks County Chiefs, presented a \$500 donation from that organization at our February business meeting to fund our Rehab Support units that respond to events in his county, West of Indianapolis.

Our website <indianapolisfirebuffs.org> has been upgraded. It is used for membership, activities calendar, has copy of newsletters published, and Rehab Support unit reports. Members and site managers are regularly exploring more ways to use the site for club members and public information.

Cell phone text and pager notifications continue to be sent out from Communications centers.

Our refurbished Reserve Station 12, now in its 101st year, continues to challenge us with mechanical repairs and uninvited critters. We are working with our IFD landlords to keep all utilities and systems functional. We have replaced AT&T with Bright House for internet and cable TV services. Indianapolis EMS tenants have access to use their electronics.

Four Rehab Support units are in service in the Central Indiana area to serve fire and public safety agencies. Aging equipment continues to need repairs and upgrades. Our relationship with The Salvation Army continues at a high level, as they provide resources and extra units when needed. We served at FDIC HOTS training sites again, with total of five units in service for two day classes. Our Hamilton County neighbors from Fishers FD brought a unit this year.

Our Constitution and Fireground Code of Conduct were reviewed, updated and approved over the last year. Our Auto, General Liability and Umbrella Liability policies were renewed for the annual term, at a slightly lower premium. Our Accident and Disability policy was renewed for a three-year term, at a slightly higher premium.

Sadly, we must report that former IFD chiefs Keith Smith and Brian Sanford deceased recently. Previous and deceased Chief Joseph Kimbrew has had IFD station #1 named as a memorial. Chief Kimbrew was the first African-American head of the department, serving 37 years until retiring in 1992. He worked for a time as a Deputy State Fire marshal after that.



Current chief Ernest Malone continues to support us from his office and staff. IFD headquarters has moved to a refurbished building at 955 Ft. Wayne Ave., just north of the former building on Massachusetts Avenue, across from Rathskeller restaurant. IFD station 7 is now in a brand new station next door to that building. HQ location will be redone for commercial and residential apartment development in the booming "Mass Ave" area .

In the Indianapolis city stations, plans have been announced to combine Station 16 with Station 32, closing station 16. Stations 52 and 54 are to be combined, at a new location midway between the two. Station 52 will be closed, and Station 54 converted to a department physical activity center.

Carlita Bennett-Hobart, wife of member Matt Bennett, has joined the club as an Honorary member. She will use her professional expertise to develop grant submissions, as we seek to upgrade our RSU vehicles and maintain Reserve Station 12 as our quarters.

Randy Cox, Jim Williamson and Jerry Traub attended the Region 6 meeting in Nashville, TN. Host club Box 55 did a grand job with activities and good food that kept us busy. Southern hospitality was appreciated by all who visited department, historical and entertainment locations. Two new clubs within Tennessee sent members to this weekend, with hopes that they will seek membership at the next annual IFBA convention. A special session was held Saturday afternoon as the local club developed a possible proposal for hosting the IFBA national convention in their city in 2019.

Jim Williamson and Jerry Traub expect to attend this year's IFBA meeting in New Orleans in August. We hope to see you there.

INDIANAPOLIS FIRE BUFFS



3-20-2016, 1720 W. Thompson Road, Indianapolis, IN, Flying J. Truck Stop:

A 3-Alarm building fire was reported in the early hours of March 20. Crews took several hours to bring the fire under control. Indianapolis was assisted by Decatur Twp. FD, Wayne Twp. FD, and Beech Grove FD. No injuries reported. Cause under investigation. The second photo shows Rehab Units 3 and 4 on the scene and crewed by IFB members. Photo by Tod Parker, www.phototac.com.



6-9-2016, 13401 Munsee Path, Carmel, IN:
Carmel FD and Noblesville FD responded to a large residence fire in Carmel. Extra companies were needed to extinguish the blaze. No injuries were reported, and the cause is under investigation. An IFB Rehab unit responded for firefighter support. Photo by Tod Parker, www.phototac.com.



Milwaukee Fire Bell Club



Charter Member

By: Dan Rode

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club activities

The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club had a busy year in 2015. They responded to (10) emergency incidents, (8) training exercises, and (20) P.R. events for a total of (38) runs. Listed below is a synopsis of these activities:

Emergency incidents

- 02-22 504 N. 106th St., City of Wauwatosa (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for a 1-story occupied house, 1 fatality)
- 02-26 3748 E. Mallory Ave., City of Cudahy (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for a 1-story house, 1 fatality)
- 03-30 911-15 S. Cesar E. Chavez Dr., City of Milwaukee (3rd alarm fire for a 3-story taxpayer)
- 03-31 911-15 S. Cesar E. Chavez Dr., City of Milwaukee (4th alarm fire for a 3-story taxpayer)
- 06-19 60th & Good Hope, City of Milwaukee (M.P.D. Tactical situation)
- 07-16 8533 Glencoe Cr., City of Wauwatosa (W.P.D. police involved shooting)
- 07-28 108th & Janesville, Village of Hales Corners (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for a diesel fuel leak)
- 10-15 3465 E. Layton Ave., City of Cudahy (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for an apartment building)
- 10-17 410 W. Aspen Ct., City of Oak Creek (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for an condominiums)
- 10-24 6070 S. Meadow Ct., City of Cudahy (MABAS Division 107 Box alarm for an condominiums)

Training exercises

- 07-11 M.F.D. Junior Fire Institute Training Camp, B.I.T.
- 07-16 2442 N. 20th St., Milwaukee (Multi-agency haz-mat exercise at Phyllis Wheatley School)
- 09-23 Mitchell International Airport disaster drill
- 10-20 Greenfield Active Shooter training, Wisconsin State Fair Park
- 10-21 Greenfield Active Shooter training, Wisconsin State Fair Park
- 10-22 Greenfield Active Shooter training, Wisconsin State Fair Park
- 11-11 1811 W. Clarke St., Milwaukee (M.F.D. Fire Recruit final burn)
- 11-12 1811 W. Clarke St., Milwaukee (M.F.D. Fire Recruit final burn)



P.R. events

02-15	6941 S. 68th St. (Franklin F.D. fundraiser)
03-22	6000 W. Ryan Rd. (M.F.B.C. Craft & Bake show)
05-30	Bayshore Mall Safety Days
06-06	Franklin Safety Day
06-25	Western Lakes Golf Club, Pewaukee (Waukesha County Fire Chiefs' Golf Outing)
06-27	6665 S. Howell Ave. (16th Great Milwaukee Muster)
07-25	Lakefront Air & Water Show
07-26	Lakefront Air & Water Show
08-04	National Night Out, Glendale
08-05	National Night Out, St. Francis
08-08	U.S.A. Triathlon, Milwaukee Lakefront
08-09	U.S.A. Triathlon, Milwaukee Lakefront
08-19	Milwaukee Fire Local 215 Retirees Picnic at Maier Festival Park
09-11	09-11 Ceremony, M.A.T.C. South Campus
09-11	Leadership Seminar, Oak Creek Community Center
09-11	09-11 Ceremony, War Memorial Center
09-19	Thiensville F.D. (Safety Days)
10-04	Grafton F.D. (Open House)
10-07	M.F.D. Fallen Firefighters Memorial
10-08	M.F.D. Awards Ceremony, B.I.T.

So far this year, the club has responded to (6) emergency incidents, (1) training exercise, and (1) P.R. event. As the summer fast approaches, the club expects to become busier with the usual exercises and events that occur in the Metro Milwaukee area.

The new "Rehab 1" has officially entered service on January 30th, 2016. The old E.S.U. 1 was sold to a private collector in the local area and many members were on hand to see the rig takes its last ride out of club quarters. Rehab 1 has not been too busy yet, even though the club has already responded to several 3rd alarm fires in Milwaukee including:

- February 20: 805 N. 28th St., fire in a large 2 1/2-story vacant wood frame dwelling.
- March 11: 1609 S. Barclay St., fire in two heavy timber constructed warehouses.
- March 22: 5634 W. Oklahoma Ave., fire in a 2-story 66-unit "garden style" apartment building. This building was also the scene of a 5th alarm fire on August 09, 1984.
- May 20: 8404 W. Brown Deer Rd., fire in a 1-story wood frame "Burger King" restaurant.

Photos of these fires can be found elsewhere in this article.

Milwaukee Fire Department updates

The Milwaukee Fire Department had a busy year in 2015. Busiest companies were:

- Busiest engine: Engine 30 (5,123 runs)
- Busiest truck: Truck 15 (3,987 runs)



- Busiest rescue: Rescue 2 (2,651 runs)
- Busiest B.C.: Battalion 1 (1,225 runs)
- Busiest med unit: Med 5 (5,822 runs)
- Busiest firehouse: Engine 36 & Med 5 (10,454 runs)

The totals for the year have not been published yet. 18 greater alarms occurred in 2015, (16) 2nd alarms, (1) 3rd alarm, and (1) 4th alarm, while ten fire fatalities occurred in the city. For 2016 so far, there have been (5) 2nd alarms and (4) 3rd alarms while (4) fire fatalities have been recorded.

Some changes have occurred in the upper echelon of the M.F.D. Assistant Chief Dan Berendt of E.T.E. (E.M.S./Training/Education) has retired on February 13 after 36 years of service. Tapped to replace him is Deputy Chief Brian Smith of the Firefighting Division. No replacement for Chief Smith has been announced as of this writing. Congratulations to both gentlemen.

The Repair Shop has been staying busy as new apparatus and vehicles are placed into service. Engine 30 received a new 2016 Pierce Arrow XT 1500/500 pumper. Their 2014 Pierce Arrow XT pumper has been reassigned to Engine 2, while Engine 2's former 2008 Pierce Velocity pumper has been reassigned to Engine 14. Meds 5 and 16 each received a 2016 Freightliner/Wheeled Coach ambulance while three 2016 Ford Taurus sedans and one 2016 Ford Explorer have been assigned to staff personnel.

The Alternate Response Vehicles (A.R.V.) mentioned in the last issue have been placed into service on April 05 at Engine 39 and 14's quarters, respectively known as A.R.V. 1 and 2. The A.R.V.'s were assigned 2012 Chevrolet Suburbans and the newly purchased 2016 Ford Expeditions have been assigned to Battalions 1 and 2.

The Milwaukee County Shared Services Initiative between the M.F.D. and North Shore, Wauwatosa, West Allis, Greenfield, Oak Creek, and St. Francis continues to evolve. On June 20, M.F.D. Battalion 5 was renamed to Battalion 7, so as not to create radio confusion with Wauwatosa Battalion 5. The sharing of resources between the seven departments allows for the closest, most appropriate resource to respond to the fire/emergency incident/E.M.S. call.

That is all for now from the Brew City. Have a safe and fun summer and enjoy the upcoming muster season. Don't forget to keep those cameras ready too, never know when you'll get that perfect photo.

Serving the Community since 1947



Caption: M.F.D. Truck 9 & Tower Ladder 2 operate their water towers at the 3rd alarm fire, 805 N. 28th St., February 20, 2016. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke



Caption: M.F.D. Truck 6's aerial is raised to the roof to assist extinguishing fire in the roof at the 3rd alarm fire, 1609 S. Barclay St., March 11, 2016. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

Region

9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.

Bell & Siren Club, Inc.

Box 54 Club

Fire Bell 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

THE PASSING OF AN ICON

Fire Department rundowns are a compendium of times and equipment. Sure, the seasoned buff will see a rundown that lists multiple alarms and movement of large numbers of apparatus and know this was a “big one”. However, rundowns of the routine, day to day responses give little clue to the drama or import of an incident. Such was the case with the following excerpt from the Jersey City Fire Department records for March 3, 2016.

0039 Eng. Co. 19 43 College Dr., Box 724
0045 Spec. Call Batt. 2, Eng. Co. 17, Lad. Co. 8 to Box 724

This seemingly mundane run would send shock waves around the buff world, for the run was to the home of renowned fire buff Ira Rubin. After completing his evening tour of duty at Jersey City Fire Dispatch, Ira didn’t feel well and called the dispatchers who relieved him for help. Despite the efforts of Jersey City Medical Center EMS and the companies assigned, Ira could not be revived.

In keeping with the traditions of the Jewish faith, a simple grave side service was held at the Mount Moriah Cemetery, Fairview, NJ on Sunday, March 6, 2016. “Simple” is a relative term in this case. The funeral procession was led by Eng. Co. 19, Lad. Co. 8 and Car 26, passing under a huge American Flag flying from the extended

aerials of Fairview and Cliffside Park ladder companies. More than 100 Jersey City Fire Fighters stood at attention at the grave while Rabbi Nathan Langer conducted the service. An equal number of family, friends and fellow buffs were present as well.

But for someone who had left such a huge impression on the fire service around the world, a true fire department send-off would be appropriate. Working with Ira’s long-time friend, Jersey City Fire Chaplain, Rev. James Pagnotta, the Gong Club and the FDJC hosted a fitting memorial service. St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, where Father Pagnotta serves as pastor, was the setting for the March 19, 2016 service.

Over 400 fire fighters, friends and buffs attended. A member of the Gong Club, Fire Bell Club of New York, Boston Sparks Assn., IFBA Membership Chairman, FDJC Dispatcher #23, FDJC Historian, an avid collector of firematic memorabilia and the “go-to” guy for helmet fronts, badges and other regalia, Ira’s reach was far and wide! The IFBA was well represented by a plethora of current and past officers and members literally from Maine to California; Canada too!

The remarks delivered by this author on behalf of the Gong Club will give you a feel for the service.



St. Joseph's Church Jersey City, NJ March 19, 2016

In the spring of 1973 there was much excitement in the Jersey City Fire Department. Ten new Mack pumpers were to be delivered; a great shot in the arm for a beleaguered fleet! However, when it was announced the rigs would be chrome yellow, there was quite a bit of grumbling among the fire fighters and buffs alike. A young member of the Gong Club wrote an editorial entitled "Yellow, Yellow Everywhere!" criticizing the idea and expounding upon the virtues of red fire apparatus. As we know today, yellow fire engines were a passing fad; the Department returned to red in 1981 but the administration didn't take kindly to criticism of their choice of color. Chief of Dept. Raymond Gibney called the Gong Club quarters after the article hit the streets, demanding to know "Who is Ira Rubin?".

Well as I look around the church today I bet there are over 400 people who could readily answer that question. For me the answer to that question started on September 8, 1967, the first day of freshman year for the Class of 1971 at St. Peter's Prep in downtown Jersey City. As way of explanation for our out of state guests, and with no apologies to graduates of other local schools, The Prep is a prestigious, rigorous all male Catholic Jesuit college preparatory school. Yes, you heard correctly, Catholic, Jesuit; the beginning of a remarkable ecumenical journey that would lead us here today to St. Joseph's Church on the Feast of St. Joseph! Ira only attended Prep for freshman year and then transferred to Lincoln High School but on that fateful first day he was seated next to me and spotted "Uniformed Fireman" in the "Father's Occupation" space on the data card I was completing at my desk. He pounced on me; "Where does your father work?" "I hang out at Eng. 8".

And so it started, Ira venturing out to my house, Eng. 17, where my father spent his entire career; me going to Eng. 8. Both of us getting to fires any way possible for 2 teenagers dependent on fathers or a Public Service bus. Along the way, I would come to his parents' candy store and learn about strange things like egg creams and jelly rings; Saturday night meals at Chinese restaurants or real Jewish delis. Ira would be at my house for Christmas and Easter! Ira's father, Gordon, would love to drive us to a fire if something hit when I was at the Rubins' apartment on Fairmount Ave. One such Saturday night in 1969 we took in a fire on Railroad Ave. in downtown Jersey City. Gong Club members Frank Bohrman and Bob Bozewski spotted us in the crowd and invited us to visit the Gong Club quarters the next weekend. The rest as they say, is history.

Since we are in Church, two episodes of that history stand out. In 1995, Pope John Paul II visited of all places, Newark! The Bell & Siren Club put out a mutual aid request to the other fire buff canteen units in North Jersey to assist. The Gong Club was assigned a position in Branch Brook Park, opposite Sacred Heart Cathedral where the pope was to preside at an



evening prayer service. The day of the visit arrived, October 4, 1995, and here right in the middle of a papal visit is Ira Rubin working on the Gong Wagon handing out ham and cheese sandwiches to the police and fire fighters on the security detail. I hope Rabbi Langer isn't here; it was Yom Kippur that day to boot.

Earlier that same year, on July 23RD, the International Fire Buff Associates annual convention was in Baltimore, MD. The convention's opening ceremonies include a traditional memorial service remembering members of fire buff clubs from around the country who had passed away since the prior convention. That year's ceremony was a bit different, as it marked the debut of the Kilted Jew! As the last name was read and the bell was rung, the double doors to the function room flew open and in walks Ira, replete in a piper's garb, playing "Amazing Grace". The Chief of the Baltimore Fire Department at the time was Herman Williams, father of television personality, Montel Williams. As Ira strode out of the room at the completion of the tune, Chief Williams, eyes wide open, said, "I've been in the fire service for 40 years. I ain't never seen anything like that before!"

So by now Chief Gibney's question has gone full circle. In my job as an insurance adjuster, I travel around the United States and, at times, beyond. In January 2014 I was in Ciudad Juarez Mexico to adjust a major claim at a candy factory; a production line had exploded resulting in several fatalities and over \$40,000,000 in damages. On the first day at the plant I was part of a group of 22 people; engineers, machinery experts, lawyers, adjusters from all over the country; even an Australian. We went around the table introducing ourselves, our role and where we are from. As soon as I said Jersey City, a fire causation expert at the end of the table blurts out, "Jersey City? Do you know Ira Rubin?" Yes, Chief Gibney, even in Ciudad Juarez the question is not "Who is Ira Rubin?", but "Do you know Ira Rubin?"

But this magnificent and all too short history would be meaningless if we left here today and did nothing. How do you keep Ira's legacy alive? How do you channel this overwhelming outpouring of emotion into something meaningful?

If you're in the firehouse and some little kid comes by, welcome them, encourage them, enkindle in them the same spirit we all feel for the fire service. He or she could be the next Ira Rubin.

If you're on the job, as Ira's Uncle, Capt. Joe Schwartz, F. D. N. Y., always said, "Get into the job". Never stop learning, training, striving to be the best. Wear your uniform properly, proudly and in keeping with our honor and tradition.

Nothing meant more to Ira than honoring our valiant heroes, those members of the FDJC who made the supreme sacrifice. No finer tribute could be paid than for all of us to be right here in this very church for the Department's Memorial Service on May 25th and for all of us to gather at Bayside Cemetery on July 24th to continue Ira's tradition of laying a wreath at the grave of Engineer of Steamer James McCarthy, the first member of the Jersey City Fire Department to die in the line of duty.

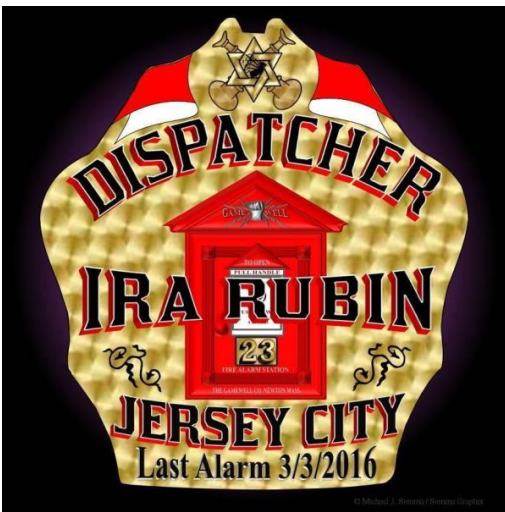
One last story, Ira was the ultimate FDJC storyteller so it is fitting to end with a story. On a warm sunny Spring Saturday in the early 1980's, Ira had some business to conduct with Deputy Chief Dominick Cardillo, Division 1, at his quarters, Eng. Co. 4-5, Trk. Co. 6, "The Consolidated Firehouse" on Newark Ave. A certain fire fighter (who will remain nameless but eventually rose to the rank of deputy chief and also served as Assistant Director for a time) got wind that Ira was due to visit. Never one to shy away from a good prank, said fire fighter lowered the flag in front of quarters to half-staff.

Deputy Chief Cardillo returned to quarters from his morning rounds and asked why was the flag at half-staff. The fire fighter replied "Chief, they just announced over the speaker that Ira Rubin died and to lower all flags to half-staff". Chief Cardillo was in shock, "Why he was supposed to see me this morning!" and lamented Ira's passing at such a young age. About 30 minutes later Ira comes walking in the firehouse and Chief Cardillo's face turned as white as his uniform shirt. After realizing he wasn't seeing a ghost, Chief Cardillo was ready to kill said fire fighter. Later that day, I asked Ira if he wanted to strangle the prankster fire fighter. "Nah, it was actually pretty funny. Besides, I bet they'd probably do that for us if something ever happened", was his answer.

On that fateful morning of March 3, 2016, after responding to the incident, staying at the Medical Center most of the night and then fielding countless calls, e-mails and text messages, I had to take the PATH into Manhattan for an insurance inspection. I returned via the Pavonia Ave. station walked through the Newport Mall exiting onto the street opposite Fire Headquarters. The flag was at half-staff. Ira, the Jersey City Fire Department will never forget you!



Gong Club member, Buffalo Fire Lt. Ken Sikora in procession
(Conni Spellman Photos)





GONG CLUB, INC.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle

THE FROZEN FOUR

No, not the NCAA Championship Hockey Tournament, but a 22 hour span for the Gong Club starting Saturday evening, February 13, 2016. A blast of arctic air shattered temperature records throughout the East Coast that weekend. Despite the near zero temperature, the usual crowds filled the popular restaurants and bars along Washington St. in Hoboken. One such hot spot, the Karma Kafe at 505 Washington St., was filled with patrons enjoying the restaurant's famed Indian cuisine. However, shortly before 2200 hours, the pungent aroma of Indian cooking was overpowered by the even stronger smell of smoke and fire!

Located on the ground floor of a 4 story attached brick structure, the patrons quickly evacuated as an upper floor became engulfed in fire. The Hoboken Fire Department turned out all companies based on the location and the report of a working fire. All that Hoboken could muster and much more would be needed to quell the blaze. Hoboken's two ladder companies were nose to nose on Washington St. and both threw their sticks to the roof. Handlines were stretched to the upper floors and truckies desperately cut holes in the roof in an attempt to hold the fire to the original building. However the rapidly advancing fire and brutal weather conditions stacked

the deck against the valiant efforts of Hoboken fire fighters.

Jersey City and North Hudson companies moved in to fill Hoboken's vacant firehouses but were soon summoned to the fire. Jersey City Ladder 12 joined Hoboken companies on the roof to work on venting the roof. However fire spewed out of every hole with a vengeance, compromising the stability of the roof. Those companies were eventually forced to abandon the roofs. The aerial ladders were retracted, ladder pipes mounted and despite the single digit temperatures, 2 master streams were deployed to attack the fire.

The 4th floors and roofs of 505 and 507 Washington St. were gutted. Similar adjoining structures were damaged by smoke and water. Even buildings on tiny Court St., in the rear, were threatened for a time. The fire was knocked down by 0200 but companies remained through the long, frigid night. Sixteen people were left homeless including a rookie Hoboken police officer. In addition to Hoboken's 6 units, North Hudson Eng. 1, Squad 2, Ladder 1, Batt. 1 and the Mask Service Unit operated. Tale of the tape for the Jersey City Fire Department read as follows:

2214 Box 002 Lad. Co, 12, Batt. 2 to 505
Washington St., Hoboken
2215 Box 002 Eng. Co. 5-10 Lad. Co. 8 Batt. 3 to
Hoboken Lad. Co. 2



2225 Box 002 Car 26 to 505 Washington St., Hoboken

2244 Box 002 MSU to 505 Washington St., Hoboken

2247 Box 002 Eng. Co. 5 Batt. 3 to 505 Washington St., Hoboken

2252 Box 002 Eng. Co. 10 Lad. Co. 8 OEM Rehab to 505 Washington St., Hoboken

The fire will go down in the books as a 4th Alarm. Be sure to check out Gong Club Member Ron Jeffers' photos on the Fire Engineering on line edition of February 16, 2016.

Member Bobby Scollan, the chauffeur for Car 26 on that run was still in quarters cleaning the rig and readying it for the next run when Box 246 was transmitted for 475 Washington Blvd. at 0420 hours, Sunday, February 14, 2016. The temperature stood precisely at zero.

That address is the Monaco Apartments, twin 47 story residential towers built in 2011. Eng. Co. 6 arrived and Capt. Robert Legregin initially reported nothing showing. The chauffeur of Eng. Co. 6 reported water flowing from sprinkler drains outside the building. Entering the lobby, Capt. Legregin encountered water cascading down from the upper floors with reports of an activation on the 45th floor. Given the hour, the height of the building and the large volume of water running into the lobby, Capt. Legregin ordered a 2nd Alarm. Car 26 was out the door again!

Companies made the long trek to the 45th floor and found the extreme cold had ruptured the sprinkler line, resulting in major water damage and electrical hazards to the floors below. All hands operated for

over an hour to bring the situation under control.

Response:

0420 Box 246 Eng. Co. 6-2-5-7-10 (with the High Rise / Tunnel Unit) Lad. Co. 6-3

Res. Co. 1 Div. 1 Batt. 1

0425 WF 246 Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 12 MSU Car 30

0425 2-2 246 Eng. Co. 9-8-14 Lad. Co. 9 Marine 1 Car 3-5-26

Dawn arrived with bright sunlight but no change in temperature. In fact, some readings showed at -1°! Jersey City companies were running constantly to alarm activations and weather related runs; the antithesis of a quiet Sunday morning! The last thing needed was another fire, but that's exactly what happened!

Box 583 was transmitted at 0928 for a fire at 28 Marion Place, a short one block street off West Side Ave. in the City's Marion section. First due Eng. Co. 15 could smell smoke as they turned out. Eng. Co. 9, coming from another box, was on the road and arrived ahead of Eng. Co. 15, to find a working fire in a 2 story frame dwelling. Thick, brown smoke was pushing from the 2nd floor. Eng. Co. 9 took the first line and found heavy fire in the rear of the dwelling. Freezing problems instantly compounded the attack, with Eng. Co. 15 backing up Eng. Co. 9.

The fire building was attached to another 2 story frame dwelling to the west, at the corner of Giles Ave. A third building, at 82 Giles Ave., hooked onto the rear of that building. Deputy Chief Michael Terpak took command and was faced with a deteriorating situation. Companies reported

fire extending into the exposure, prompting Chief Terpak to transmit a 2nd Alarm at 0942 hours. Despite reinforcements arriving, fire continued to race across the cockloft of the attached buildings. Companies were withdrawn and Ladder Co. 3 readied their ladder pipe.



2/14/16 3-3 583 28 Marion Pl., Jersey City
-1° “Nuff said! (FF Robert Houser Photo)

With fire in 3 buildings and a now fierce wind bringing the cold to unmerciful levels, Chief Terpak, borrowing a line from the movie, “The Towering Inferno” ordered Fire Dispatch to “Ring in the 3rd Alarm”! All units worked for several hours in these extreme conditions until the fire was brought under control. Car 26, with a crew of 3, provided copious amounts of coffee and hot chocolate to bring some relief to frigid fire fighters.

Ticket for Box 583:

0928 Box 583 Eng. Co. 15-17-11-9 Lad. Co. 3-11
Res. Co. 1 Div. 1 Batt. 4
0933 WF 583 Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 6 MSU Batt. 3
Car 30
0942 2-2 583 Eng. Co. 10-6-8 Lad. Co. 12 Car 1A-
3-5-26 OEM Rehab
1001 3-3 583 Eng. Co. 7-14-2 Lad. Co.4

But, wait; there’s more! Things seemed to settle down as the temperature rose to a balmy 12°. Hopes for a quiet night, however, were dashed at 2000 hours when Box 863 was struck for 287 Van Nostrand Ave., one block from the quarters of Eng. Co. 19 and Lad. Co. 8 in the City’s Greenville section. Newly promoted Battalion Chief Stephan Drennan was in Battalion 2 that night, arriving ahead of the companies. Chief Drennan ordered a 2nd Alarm shortly after arriving, reporting fire in a 2 ½ story frame dwelling extending to a vacant frame dwelling to the west at 289 Van Nostrand.

Deputy Chief Terpak took command of this job as well. Companies made quick work of this fire, bringing it under control by 2035 hours. Fire fighters warmed up at Car 26,



completed overhauling and, thankfully had a relatively quiet night for the rest of the tour.

2000 Box 863 Eng. Co. 19-13-8-17 Lad. Co. 8-4 Res. Co. 1 Div. 1 Batt. 2
2003 WF 863 Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 11 Batt. 4 MSU
2003 2-2 863 Eng. Co. 9-10-15 Lad. Co. 12 Car 5-26-30 OEM Rehab

Three different chauffeurs covered the 4 runs for Car 26. Two members, Jimmy Fay and Bobby Scollan, made 2 of the 4 responses. Despite fires in 2 cities and 3 different battalions, Eng. Co. 10 and Lad. Co. 12, just like Car 26, made all 4 incidents! That should qualify the Halladay Street companies for combat pay!

TRIPLE TRIPLE!

Jersey City's Battalion 2 fought not one, not two but three third alarm fires this week! The first location was a repeat customer while the next two were within a block of each other!

The evening of Monday, May 16, 2016 brought companies to 68 Neptune Ave. at 2041 hours. Eng. Co. 13 was first due and responded via Garfield Ave., knowing this address is a corner property. Capt. Len DiStasio looked down the alley between 68 Neptune Ave. and 183 Garfield Ave. and saw a wall of fire! Capt. DiStasio ordered the Working Fire immediately followed by a 2nd Alarm. Both buildings are 3 story frame large tenements, 25' x 80'. Fire was rapidly extending up the side walls of both buildings, melting the vinyl siding and revealing the old style asphalt shingles, dubbed "gasoline shingles" by veteran fire fighters. These shingles rapidly ignited, sending a towering column of black smoke into the night sky.

Battalion 2, Acting Battalion Chief John Johnson, arrived a minute behind Eng. Co. 13 and transmitted a 3rd Alarm. High voltage wires on both Neptune and Garfield Avenue prevented the use of aerial ladders. 35' ground ladders were thrown to access the roofs. Engine companies moved in to all floors of both buildings to beat back the flames extending into the interiors. Within 30 minutes, Deputy Chief Kevin Stewart placed the fire under control.

Both buildings can be rebuilt, but the 37 residents of both buildings will be homeless until repairs can be completed. These buildings have used 2 of their 9 lives! Jersey City fire fighters performed a similar feat 15 years earlier, on April 28, 2001, a 2nd Alarm on Box 914 also. Both this fire and the 2001 blaze appear to have started on the outside, in the alleyway between the two structures.

Response:

2041 Box 914 Eng. Co. 13-19-22-8 Lad. Co. 8-4 Res. Co. 1 Div. 1, Batt. 2
2043 WF 914 Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 12 Marine Unit MSU Batt. 4 Car 30
2044 2-2 914 Eng. Co. 17-10-9 Lad. Co. 9 Batt. 3 Car 3A-26
2045 3-3 914 Eng. Co. 5-15-7 Lad. Co. 6 Car 5-10-14 OEM Rehab

Wednesday night's action shifted to the northern edge of the 2nd Battalion. Ladder Co. 11's evening meal was interrupted by people at the front door of quarters reporting a fire around the corner. Capt. Peter Regiec radioed Fire Dispatch, "Transmit a box for Kearney & West Side Avenues". The crew mounted up and was out the door before the box went out on the air. Two quick left turns and they were there, but fire was already lapping out the rear windows of the middle building of a row of three attached 2.5 story frame buildings. Capt. Regiec ordered the Working Fire and started a search. A section of ceiling came down injuring the Captain and one of his

crew. Battalion 2, Batt. Chief Peter Griese, arrived and transmitted a 2nd Alarm at 1832 hours.

The fire buildings were all 2.5 story frame buildings, 20' x 40' but with one and two story rear extensions. Fire originated in a first floor kitchen of 410 West Side Ave., blowing out the side windows of the rear extension and into both exposures. Two of the buildings were residential, but the corner building at 412 West Side Ave., houses a neighborhood bar on the ground floor. Res. Co. 1, commanded by Capt. Michael Davis, made the 2nd floor and located a resident in a bedroom. "We're coming out with a victim. Have EMS meet us in front", reported Capt. Davis. Despite valiant efforts, the homeowner, a 64-year-old male, could not be revived.



5/18/16 3-3 762 410 West Side Ave., Jersey City
Car 26 preparing for work. (Ben Stevens Photo)

Deputy Chief Gregory Lallo transmitted a 3rd Alarm, using those companies to relieve the 1st and 2nd Alarm units. Fire was placed under control at 1916 hours. Although heavily damaged, the buildings can be repaired. The Fire Investigation Unit is continuing to investigate the cause. The

person who perished was a life-long resident and the sole occupant of the building.

Rundown:

1827 Box 762 Eng. Co. 8-Sqd. 4-22-10 Lad. Co. 11-8 Res. Co. 1 Batt. 2 Div. 1
1830 WF 762 Eng. Co. 15 Lad. Co. 4 Marine Unit MSU Batt. 4 Car 30
1832 2-2 762 Eng. Co. 9-13-7 Lad. Co. 9 Car 3A-26 OEM Rehab
1909 3-3 762 Eng. Co. 14-11-5 Lad. Co. 2 Batt. 1 Car 5-10-14

Three days later, on the quiet Saturday morning of May 21, 2016, a fire broke out one block north of Wednesday's fire! Box 759 was transmitted at 0810 hours for 193 Ege Ave. Eng. Co. 8, Capt. Robert Halter, reported heavy smoke in the area. Lad. Co. 11 made a left and 2 quick rights and was confronted with another row of 2 story frame dwellings with heavy smoke showing. Capt. Robert Pilger reported a Working Fire and ordered the first due engine to back into the street from Kennedy Blvd. Battalion 2, Batt. Chief William Raleigh, reported fire in a row of 3 attached dwellings, 2 lines operating and transmitted a 2nd Alarm. A huge plume of black smoke could be seen 15 miles distant! The rear of all 3 buildings was a now a roaring inferno. A portion of the 2nd Alarm assignment was ordered to attack the fire from the rear, entering through Kearney Ave., the home block of Eng. Co. 17 and Lad. Co. 11.

Deputy Chief Michael Terpak assumed command and quoted his favorite line from the movie "The Towering Inferno". "Ring in the 3rd Alarm" ordered Chief Terpak! 8 hand lines were deployed to battle the fire in the 3 buildings. Unattached 2 story dwellings on either side of the row were spared but the 3 row dwellings were heavily damaged and their structural integrity will need to be evaluated.

Unfortunately, rotational closings have been a way of life for many years in Jersey City. Eng. Co. 17, first due at both of these fires, was out of service those two days. Up to four companies per day may be placed out of service due to manpower problems.



5/21/16 3-3 759 193 Ege Ave., Jersey City
Fire Investigation Unit looking for origin and cause. (Warren Zapp Photo)

Between the 3 third alarms, the Gong Club dispensed some 484 bottles of water, 6 gallons of coffee and 15 gallons of Gatorade from Car 26 this week.

Running Assignment:

0810 Box 759 Eng. Co. 8-Sqd. 4-19-9 Lad. Co. 11-4 Res. Co. 1 Div. 1 Batt. 2
0813 WF 759 Eng. Co. 22 Lad. Co. 9 Marine Unit MSU Batt. 4 Car 30
0816 2-2 759 Eng. Co. 10-13-7 Lad. Co. 6 Car 3A-26
0821 S/C 759 Batt. 1
0823 3-3 759 Eng. Co. 15-11-5 Lad. Co. 7 Car 5-10-14 OEM Rehab

A MILESTONE

December 10, 2015 marked the 65th Anniversary of the Gong Club. The execution and completion of 3 major

projects, noted in the previous issue of TURN OUT, celebrated this event.

Car 26, our 2001 Utilimaster canteen apparatus, returned to service on December 11, 2016, one day after the anniversary. The rig is now all electric; the propane is now history. A new coffee maker, new water tank, new LED lighting and a slide out cooler for bottled water are the major enhancements.

New “Armor-Tuff” flooring and LED lighting have been installed in quarters. The store room and locker room were refurbished also, with all lockers replaced and shelving added to the store room.

The grand celebration drew a capacity crowd of members and guests to the Casino-in-the Park, Jersey City, on December 10, 2015. Fire Fighter Michael Somma, Eng. Co. 9, designed the below insignia for the celebration. Now we can start planning for the 75th; less than 10 years away!





2/13/16 4-4 505 Washington St., Hoboken
0° - not a good night for ladder pipes!
(Ron Jeffers Photos)

Region

10

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



Ontario Fire Buff Associates
PO Box 56 Don Mills, Don Mills, ON
M3C 2R6

Greetings from Southern Ontario where Old Man Winter does not appear to be willing to give way to Spring as I write this in mid-April with overnight temperatures in the low 20's Fahrenheit and snow forecast for later today.

The Ontario Fire Buff Associates had a successful 2015 buffing season from May to November with 6 photo tours ranging from the Bay of Quinte area on Lake Ontario, west to southern Bruce County on Lake Huron, to the northern parts of Simcoe County above Lake Simcoe and south to the shores of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. We also had a number of members attend the IFBA Convention in Hartford and hope that some will be able to attend the New Orleans Convention in August this year.

13 members gathered at the Rama First Nation Fire Station on May 23 for our first tour of the year which saw us visit and photograph the apparatus of their fire service as well as those at the 2 stations in Orillia and the 6 volunteer halls in Oro-Medonte.



May Tour participants in front of Rama's ESU 1
Photo by Desmond Brett

Sixteen members turned out on June 27 for a 9 am start at Thorold Station 4 on a cloudy, threatening day as the OFBA visited the Thorold and St. Catharines Fire Services. After photographing the apparatus, including their former St. Johns FD's 1926 REO Bickle pumper we

moved on to shoot the rigs at Stations 3, 2 and 1 before lunch. By this time the rain had started to fall and we re-convened at St. Catharines new Station 4 at 1230 where the crew gave us a tour of the new building which includes a secure area containing the city's main computer servers, offices for the Training Division and the new Fire Dispatch centre which we also had a chance to visit.

St. Catharines Fire Dispatch serves 13 municipalities, 11 in Niagara Region and the counties of Haldimand and Norfolk, with a combined area of 4503.25 sq. km. and a 2014 population of 456,225 persons. They dispatch 210 pieces of apparatus from 62 fire stations and are the 5th largest fire dispatch centre (by population) in Ontario after Toronto, Peel Region, Ottawa and Hamilton. Their coverage area is the largest of the five and is 2nd behind Toronto in the number of stations dispatched. Operators dispatched 17,629 incidents in 2014.

We then carried on to the other five stations in St. Catharines finishing at Station 6 around 4 pm. Although the weather did not cooperate with the rain getting heavier as the day wore on, all present enjoyed themselves and were appreciative of the efforts put in by both the volunteers in Thorold and the on-duty shift (3 Platoon) in St. Catharines who made us feel welcome and didn't hesitate to grant any request.



Saugeen Shores Ladder 59 2015 Pierce Arrow XT 75' aerial 1750/420/20B S#27486
Photo by Bob Rupert

On July 18, 9 members arrived at the Kincardine Fire Hall, 220 km northwest of downtown Toronto, under sunny skies on a very warm and humid day. The day got off to a slow start, however, as our contact failed to show resulting in some anxious moments for tour organizer Greg Scott of Owen Sound. Fortunately for us, an alarm was sounded bringing out the volunteers who returned from the false alarm in short order (one or two mentioned that perhaps we had turned in the alarm?) and welcomed us with open arms. We then proceeded to their other hall in Tiverton before visiting the maintenance facility of the Bruce Power Corporation which is now the largest nuclear power generating plant in the world. The Chief of the Bruce Power Emergency and Protective Services provided us with an overview of the facility and explained the rationale behind their recent (2012) purchase of 2 - 2500 IGPM pumpers and 3 - 1250

imperial gallon tankers with the same 2500 gal./min. pumps. The rigs were designed to not only fight fires but to also provide cooling water for a reactor in case of a failure of the reactors' cooling systems.

After lunch we proceeded to the 2 Saugeen Shores stations Port Elgin and Southampton before proceeding on to halls of the Saugeen First Nation, Tara, Chesley and Paisley departments before calling it a day after photographing 46 pieces of apparatus.



August tour participants with Belleville's Tanker 633
Photo by Bob Rupert

On August 8, eight members journeyed towards the Bay of Quinte area, 190 km. east of Toronto, for a tour of the Belleville and Quinte West Fire Departments visiting 11 fire stations and photographing 45 pieces of apparatus.



Ramara Tower 1 - 2011 Sutphen Monarch 100' midship 1250/250/20F S#HS4960
Photo by Bob Rupert

September 12 saw members gathering at Ramara Township Station 3 in Washago for the start of our tour of the Ramara, Brock and Georgina Fire Departments with 39 pieces of apparatus housed in 9 fire halls. All 3 departments, on the eastern and southern shores of Lake Simcoe, provide water and ice rescue services in addition to fire protection and other rescue services to their respective communities.



Pelham (Fonthill Firefighters) Parade Unit 1939 Ford Two Ton / Bickle 250/100
Photo by Bob Rupert

Our final tour, on October 3, saw us visit the Fort Erie and Pelham Fire Departments in the Niagara Region where we visited 8 stations and took photos of 30 pieces of apparatus.

On November 7 the OFBA held our 24th Annual Fire Services Collectibles Show and Sale at the Toronto Fire Academy in the morning and, after lunch, our 44th Annual General Business meeting where our biennial election of officers was held with the following results: President - Bob Rupert, Secretary - Ken Jansen, Treasurer - Jim Stronach, Membership Secretary - Robert Herscovitch, Vice President - Dave Mollison, Director and Third Alarm Editor - Des Brett, Director - Larry Ward and Director - Bob Anderson.

Plans for this year include tours in northwestern Simcoe County on May 14, finish the southern Bruce County area on June 25, a 2 day tour in Monroe County, NY on July 9-10, eastern Northumberland County in August, 2 departments in Elgin County on September 10 and 3 departments of the York and Durham Regions in October along with our 25th Annual Collectibles Show and 45th Annual Business meeting on November 5. Check out our website at www.ofba.com for details of the tours and other news including how to subscribe to our bimonthly newsletter the "Third Alarm" which is in its 45th year of publication and is now also available in digital format.

Fire Chief (Ret.) Robert C. (Bob) Rupert
President, Ontario Fire Buff Associates

FIRE BUFFS OF THE YEAR LIST



"Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" Award

Year presented	Recipient	Convention
1967	Henry N. Wilwers	St. Louis, MO
1968	William H. Perkins	Chicago, IL
1969	Edward R. Damaschke	Annapolis, MD
1970	William A. Brennan	Indianapolis, IN
1971	Albert J. Burch	Philadelphia, PA
1972	Charles C. Price	New York, NY
1973	Keith F. Franz	Milwaukee, WI
1974	John I. Hruska	Boston, MA
1975	Arthur D. Devlin, M.D.	Columbus, OH
1976	James H. Blomley	Baltimore County, MD
1977	Henry G. Nathan	St. Louis, MO
1978	Roman A. Kaminski	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1979	Walter M. P. McCall	New Orleans, LA
1980	Edward A. Massmann	San Francisco, CA
1981	William "Pop" Porter, Sr.	Indianapolis, IN
1982	Duane W. Troxel (posthumously)	Detroit, MI
1983	Denis E. Williams	Milwaukee, WI
1984	G. Grant Miller	Boston, MA
1985	Donald H. Cheu, M.D.	Columbus, OH
1986	Harold L. Holtzman	Seattle, WA
1987	William F. Noonan	St. Louis, MO
1988	Harry W. Knodel	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
1989	Jan C. Faulstich	Secaucus, NJ
1990	Malcolm S. "Bill" Ketchum	St. Paul, MN
1991	Gerald J. Hourigan	San Jose, CA
1992	Frederick M. Hill	Westlake, OH
1993	L. Murray Young	Milwaukee, WI
1994	George "Smokey" Bass	Universal City, CA
1995	William M. Mokros	Baltimore, MD
1996	George B. Ottley	Nashville, TN
1997	Stuart M. Nathan	Chicago, IL
1998	Herb Pearlstein	Columbus, OH
1999	Owen P. "Phil" Reid, Jr.	Tacoma, WA
2000	Ralph Decker	St. Louis, MO
2001	William "Bill" C. Celentano, Jr.	Houston, TX
2002	Paul Schaetzle	Moline, IL
2003	Steven C. Hansen	Milwaukee, WI
2004	Leonard W. Williams	Quebec City, Canada
2005	Gary M. Heathcote	Indianapolis, IN
2006	James Rasmussen (posthumously)	Seattle, WA
2007	Jerry Traub	Cambridge, MA.
2008	Bob Deibler	Racine, WI
2009	Hal Bruno	Washington DC
2010	No Award Presented	
2011	Rick Cutts	Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
2012	Charles Liedtke	Toronto, Canada
2013	James Williamson	Milwaukee, WI
2014	Ira Cohen	Dallas, TX
2015	Tom McDonald	Hartford, CT

TURN OUT SPRING 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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