



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER



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FEBRUARY 2008

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Christian Joseph Becker



Died on December 27, 2007

It is with Deep Regret, that this Editor reports the passing of Committee Member, Christian Jos. Becker. Chris passed away at 8:30 pm on December 27, 2007.

Christian Joseph Becker, of Westchester County, passed away on December 27, 2007. He was 80 years old. Chris was a WWII US Army Veteran and an Active Life member and Past President of the Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association. He was the Founder and Editor of "Westchester County Volunteer". He was Past President of the Southern New York Firemen's Association. He was instrumental in having the fire-safe Cigarette Bill passed in the New York Senate and Assembly after 18 years of hard work. Chris was a Chaplain with New York State Association of Fire Chaplains; a past Co-Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. He currently served on the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association Publication Committee and Legislative Committee. Additionally, Chris was an Honorary Member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Harriette and Chris have been together since 1982. He is survived by a sister, Dolores Bordash, ten nieces and nephews, twenty-one grand nieces and nephews and four great, great nieces and nephews. His extended family with Harriette includes a daughter, three grandsons and two great grandsons. His family also includes the hundreds of firemen that were his friends and brothers. Firematic services were held at the Flynn Memorial Home in Yonkers, New York.

In lieu of flowers and at the family's request, donations may be made to The Firemen's Home, 125 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, NY (518) 828-7695 A new project down the pike for the Trustees of the Firemen's Home is a stained glass window project for the Chapel. What better way to recognize Chris than to make contributions to this new project. Please make any checks payable to "Firemen's Home Stained Glass Window Fund" and send them to the address above and to the Attention of either Craig Wittman, Administrator, OR John Porreca Jr., Controller.

Editor's Note: Most of you long timers in the fire service knew Chris and his dedication to the fire service. When I took over as Editor of the 'Hudson Valley Firefighter' three years ago, Chris was right there giving me guidance as well as advice. His contributions have not gone unnoticed by anyone who knew him.

Photo courtesy of ABC Creative Group Article compiled by John Balling, Editor



**NEWS
FROM THE
LADIES AUXILIARY
OF HVVFA**

Report on the November 2007 Meeting

On November 4 we were greeted by Lisa Conklin, the Auxiliary President of our host company—Hillcrest #1 at Mt. Ivy. Further greetings were brought by Fire Chief Chris Geer and Vice President Frank Youngman.

Our President, Dianne Werner, continued the introductions with Hudson Valley President Harry Barrett. Two past presidents, Bill Buckmaster and Cy Pecoraro, were present also.

Prior to these introductions a tasty lunch was served by the local ladies. Thank you ladies!

The usual reports were read and copies are available for your perusal upon request.

The Financial Secretary reported receiving dues from twenty-two members and seven auxiliaries, plus accepting three new members.

MaryLou Nash reported for the Credentials Committee that there were forty-seven members and three guests in attendance for a total of fifty persons. Nine counties were represented within those numbers.

Marilyn Farrell reported a total of \$637.10 taken in for Ways and Means.

Our next meeting will be on April 13 at the Kerhonkson Fire House in Ulster County. I hope to see you there.

Submitted by Leah Fletcher

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2007

On November 10, 2007, the Catskill Fire Department had its 4th Annual Fire Banquet at Pollace's Crystal Palace.

The night was filled with good energy, good dinner, good music and dancing with the Dan/James Band. The evening ended a great year by honoring the top three firefighters of 2007 and the giving of many service awards.

The top three firefighters were:

- Glenn Kazanjian honored with Officer of the Year
- Robert Overbaugh honored with Most Improved Firefighter
- Randy Ormerod honored with Firefighter of the Year.

Good time was had by all and in a short year, Catskill Fire Department will be back to do it all again.

Reprinted with some minor editing from LocalFirehouse.com

MESSAGE FROM President Harry Barrett

Dear Members;

Winter is about half over and so far it's been quite rough. I hope all had a good Christmas and good start to the New Year. The January quarterly meeting and the Past Presidents Dinner will also be behind us, as I am writing this the day after Christmas. I am hoping that it will be well attended and that we have a successful meeting and dinner, not only to honor Jr. Past President Bob Wescott, but also to honor all the Past Presidents.

Business in the Valley has been quiet. However, the Dinner Committee, the Redbook/Journal Committee and the Certificate Committee have been active. Let's keep up the good work and keep up the outstanding reputation and image of the HVVFA that we have throughout the fire service. I hope the rest of the winter is smooth and that we see each other in April.

Don't forget our Legislative Mini Conferences on March 8th in Montrose, April 12 (tentative) in Athens and May 10 in Saxton. John Balling will keep us on line.

NOTE: The "Roadkill" Café is will stocked. I have skunk, possum, woodchuck, Chihuahuas and a deer in the freezer.

Harry Barrett



Joe Kelly Now Unopposed for FASNY 2nd VP

Delbe Spath of Walkkill has a bigger smile now as Campaign Chairman for Joseph Kelly. As the headline says, at the recent FASNY Legislative & Educational conference William Nichols of Monroe County withdrew from the expected August 2008 convention election. Thus Joe Kelly, the Hudson Valley VFA's endorsed candidate, faces no election contest. Kelly is an Past Chief of Walkkill and Hudson Valley VFA Past President.

Bill Nichols, a Past Executive Committee Member, noted his family and health considerations are a first priority. He encouraged all to attend the convention in Rochester.

Also, Paul D O'Brien of Verplanck will be seeking reelection for his second 5-year term as Trustee of the Firemen's Home.

John Gunza of the Hudson Valley VFA Steering Committee announced that Santo "Chan" Rivera will be its candidate for FASNY Director in 2009, when incumbent James A Ryan competes his 10 years (2 terms).

Reprinted from the December Trumpet

IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNING

Editor's Note: The following is an email which was received from Andy Pilecki which was sent to him by Ray Rathbun –Washington County Bureau of Fire Coordinators. It is printed as it was written.

We have had two recent structure fires that I found disturbing to think about what could have happened to our Fire Fighters!

Both of these structures were totally destroyed. In the first structure we found had a 100lb. LP Tank inside with a Radiant Heat Fixture attached to it! This tank at some point before the fire was called in blew , knocking pictures off the wall of a bar almost a half mile away!

We found nothing more then a small part of the top of this tank!

In the second incident we found two 20lb. LP tanks found in the structure with Radiant Heaters attached as well , one of which did rupture!

We don't know that the LP started either one of these fires but we do know that they both lead to the total destruction of both structures!

What would happen if a fire fighter had made entry or was in the process of entering?

I knew we would see a lot more fires because of the high cost of home heating oil and we would see a lot of odd things when people try to use some other means to heat there homes!

*Ray Rathbun
Washington County Bureau of Fire Coordinators*

**Write US Senators To Support
Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit**

If you favor a \$200 tax credit on your **federal income tax**, you are urged to communicate with your two United States Senators **now**. Even a postcard!

On Nov 6 the U. S. House of Representatives passed the HEART Bill. This proposed tax break is part of the **H**eroes **E**arning **A**ssistance and **R**elief **T**ax Act. This would allow all firefighters, volunteer and career to gain a personal income tax credit amount \$200 off the bottom line of their taxes.

This legislation now moves to the U. S. Senate in Washington DC for action by that body. Thus our need to write US Senators Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton **now**. Check your local newspaper, telephone directory or FASNY website—<http://www.fasny.com>— for the address needed to contact both of these Senators.

Reprinted from the Trumpet December issue

CENTERVILLE FIREMAN RECOGNIZED!

On October 20, 2007, Centerville Fire Company held their Award Night at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Saugerties (Ulster County).

Guest of honor for the evening was Thomas Brennan. Tom was very much surprised at the accolades given to him for his 50 years of service to the firematic service and to his community. Tom has served as numerous company officers as well as being a past commissioner of the Centerville-Cedar Grove Fire District. Tom now is enjoying his retirement from the Saugerties Central School District.



Fire District Chief Randy Ricks presenting to Tom Brennan

Presentations were made by the following: Centerville Fire Company President Tom Swart, Centerville Cedar Grove Fire District Chief Randy Ricks, U. S. Congressman Maurice



L-R: John Balling (HVVFA) Centerville President Tom Swart and Honoree Tom Brennan

Hinchey, John Balling on behalf of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Tom received many plaques, citations, and a pocket watch for his many years of service.

Glasco Fire Company catered the event at the Knights Hall. They were to host this event in their firehouse but do to a devastating fire plans were rearranged. The appetizers and meal were delicious.

Congratulations Tom for your 50 years.

Enjoy your camping!

Article and pictures submitted by John and Diana Balling



Centerville President Tom Swart and Tom Brennan



United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey presenting honors upon his old friend Tom Brennan

The Hudson Valley Firefighter

Published six times a year (with exceptions) by the publications committee of the

Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association in the interest of the volunteer fire service throughout the Hudson Valley.

All communications to do with news articles and issue content, *other than address changes*, should be mailed to the Editor at

1041 Blue Mountain Road, Saugerties, NY 12477

fax to 1-208-246-3911

Home--845-246-7805

Or email me at john@bmfe.net

Paul M. Fisher—Founding Editor—Hudson Valley Fireman

John J Balling Editor—Hudson Valley Firefighter

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<http://www.hvvfa.org>

ADVERTISING RATES (per issue)

Business Card \$25—Quarter Page \$40—Half Page \$65
Full Page \$125

5% discount for a year's advertising.

Memorial / Sponsor Page Donations \$100

DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

June 20 for August issue (issue #1)

August 20 for October (issue #2)

October 20 for December (issue #3)

December 20 for February (issue #4)

February 20 for April (issue #5)

April 20 for June-Convention Issue (issue #6)

For all news items - ads - and photos

BULLETIN BOARD

ALL HUDSON VALLEY FIREMEN OF THE YEAR-2008

Applications go to

Chairman Douglas Mann

103 North Liberty Dr. Stony Point NY 10980

Applications must be received by February 15, 2008.

ALL HUDSON VALLEY FIRE POLICEMAN OF THE YEAR-2008

Applications go to Chairman Robert Ruston

8 Arrow Head Court, Newburgh NY 12550

& must be received by March 1, 2008

Looking to sign up a new fire/EMS member but don't know where to go?

Call 1-800-FIRELINE (1-800-347-3546)

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

To the Readers:

First, I owe an apology to Mr. Andy Jarchin of "THE JARCHIN GROUP", I mistakenly identified the name of his PR company as "The Jargon Group" in the last edition. Andy has been very helpful in supplying pictures and articles to me pertaining to the Firemen's Home in Hudson, NY. Sorry Andy; and thank you for all your help.

Next on my agenda is this publication, in case you haven't noticed, these last two editions are down to twelve pages. We seem to have slacked off in getting articles. In both editions two of the twelve pages are filled with pictures; this cuts down news articles to ten pages. Those old reliable contributors, THANKS. Unfortunately, we could not come up with worthwhile material to fill the extra two and a half to three pages that we needed. Hopefully we will be able to pick up the pieces and get back on track.

The membership of HVVFA owes a debt of gratitude to Mike Cesare for resurrecting the Calendar of Events which I could not master. Thanks Mike!

Diana and I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year..

John Balling, Editor



**HAPPY
VALEN-
TINE'S**

ADVERTISING RATES

If any one is interested or knows someone that might be interested in placing an ad this paper, please contact this editor at : editor@hvvfa.org

The rates per issue are as follows:

(per issue)

Business Card \$25—Quarter Page \$40—Half Page \$65

Full Page \$125

5% discount for a year's advertising

Memorial / Sponsor Page Donations \$100

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance has issued Form IT-245 in order to claim a \$200 (or \$400) New York State 2007 income tax credit for service with a Volunteer Ambulance Corp. or Volunteer Fire Department.

The form is available to download from:
<http://www.tax.state.ny.us/pdf/2007/fillin/inc/>

Congress passes Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act

FireRescue1 Editor's note: The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act was one of the NVFC's top legislative priorities in 2007.

By FireRescue1 Staff

WASHINGTON — New legislation was passed Tuesday that will prohibit the federal government from taxing benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel by state and local authorities.

The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA) was passed by the House of Representatives after it went through the Senate last week.

The act, one of the National Volunteer Fire Council's top legislative priorities in 2007, is now headed to the president for signature.

Leaders from the NVFC testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in October about the need to protect the benefits communities across the country provide to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel as a recruitment and retention tool.

"Federal taxation of volunteer first responder benefits has several effects," said John McAuliffe, NVFC Connecticut State Director, during the testimony. "The most obvious is to reduce the value of the benefit to the volunteer."

The language that passed in H.R. 3648 exempts all tax benefits provided by state and local units of government to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel from taxation by the federal government. Additionally, the first \$360 per year of any other type of benefit that a volunteer receives would be exempted from taxation.

VRIPA originally passed the House of Representatives on November 6, as part of H.R. 3997. Then last week, the Senate inserted the VRIPA language into H.R. 3648. All throughout this process, the NVFC has been contacting U.S. Senators and Representatives to advocate passage of the provision and asking our members to do the same.

"I'm very pleased to announce the passage of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "This is a tremendous benefit for volunteer emergency responders and the communities that rely on their service."

Reprinted from FireRescue1.com website

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE DATES TO BE NOTED

Montrose Legislative Conference:
 The Lower Hudson Valley FASNY/WCVFA
 Legislative Conference
 Saturday, March 8, 2008
 Cortland Engine Company
 49 Albany Post Road (Route 9A)
 Montrose, NY.

Registration will begin 9 AM
 Meeting to start 10 AM

Refreshments and lunch are compliments of Cortland Engine Co. firefighters and ladies auxiliary

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FASNY/Hudson Valley/Hudson Mohawk
 Volunteer Firemen's Associations
 Joint Legislative Conference
 Saturday, March 15, 2008
 Village of Athens Fire House
 39 3rd Street
 Athens, NY

Registration will begin 12:30 pm
 Meeting to start 1 PM

Refreshments compliments of Athens Fire Department

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FASNY/ Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's
 Association
 Mid-Hudson Valley Legislative Conference
 Saturday, May 10, 2008
 Saxton Fire House
 3859 Route 32 North
 Saugerties, NY

Registration will begin at 12:30 PM
 Meeting to start at 1 PM

Refreshments compliments of Saxton firefighters and ladies auxiliary

CHRISTMAS AT THE NEW FIREMEN’S HOME 2007

Christmas at the Firemen’s Home in Hudson was extra special this year. It was the First in the New Home. These two pages contain pictures captured during all the following events. No captions are necessary.

Greene County Volunteer Firemen’s Association and Ladies Auxiliary started the December celebrations with music by Albany Veteran Administration Music Therapy group. Greenville Ladies Auxiliary hosted this years party. Delicious cookies were supplied by D H Hamilton (sugar free) and Greenville Ladies Auxiliary along with numerous other donations.

The following weekend found Hudson Mohawk Firemen’s Association doing their thing. Finger foods were served and the bingo games began to everyone’s enjoyment! Everyone is a winner.

The third weekend found the Royal Order of the Blue Vests invading the premises. Everyone wanted to wish the residents Happy Holidays. A complete report of these festivities can be found under the Blue Vest Corner of this newspaper. So I won’t bore you with repeating it here.

As in the past years, Columbia County Volunteer Firemen’s Association visited the home to celebrate Christmas and remind them that they are not forgotten. This year they came on Christmas Eve Day. Hot and cold dishes were served and live music was supplied.

Santa was in attendance at each and every one of these events. Special thanks go out to all of these groups who make the residents of the Firemen’s Home enjoy their Christmas in their “Home Away From Home.”

Article/photos submitted by John and Diana Balling





2008 HVVFA CONVENTION

The 2008 Convention will be at [The Nevele Grande](#) to be held June 18 thru June 21, 2008.



Nevele Grande Hotel Reservation's 800-647-6000
**Please State The Reservation is for the
"2008 Hudson Valley Firemen's Convention"**

ALL FIREFIGHTERS INCLUDING FAMILIES (man, woman and child) WILL NEED A **SUPSA WRISTBAND**, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED BY SUPSA, TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL EVENTS AT THE NEVELE GRANDE RESORT.

YOU WILL NEED IT FOR MEETINGS, VISITS, AFTER PARADE ACTIVITIES, OKTOBERFEST, ETC.

THIS WRISTBAND IS ONLY FOR THOSE ATTENDEES

WHO ARE NOT STAYING AT THE NEVELE.

IF YOU ARE STAYING AT THE NEVELE , YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH ACCESS.

For complete calendar of events, applications for Convention Year-book ads, Oktoberfest information, parade trophy listing, etc., please go to the following website: <http://www.hvvfaconvention.org/>

Wanted!! Trophy Sponsors

The 2008 Convention Committee is looking for sponsors for the trophies for the Dress and Mardi Gras Parades. All interested sponsors can contact Ed Gillespie at: car33sgt@aol.com or by mail at:

SUPSA
PO BOX 66
Wawarsing, NY 12489-0066
and supsa25@aol.com to get suggested donor amounts.

GREENE COUNTY PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER

On Sunday, November 18, 2007, the Past President's Dinner was held at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie. Appetizers were served at 3 pm followed by a delicious roast beef and roast pork dinner. Marilyn Schrader, 1st Vice President of GCVFA, welcomed those in attendance.

The invocation was given by Greene County Fire Police Association Chaplain Henry Coons and the Pledge to the Flag was lead by Joseph Van Holsteyn, interim President of the G.C. Fire Chiefs Association.

Peter Alberti, President of GCVFA, introduced the honorees:

- Dave Sherman Sr. GCVFA
- Cindy Lampman, GCVFALA
- Garth Walker, GC Fire Police Association

Peter Bennett, 2nd VP of the GCVFA introduced the invited dignitaries of the county associations.

Cindy Lampman, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the GCVFA, introduced her officers, as well as other past presidents in attendance. She presented the three other honorees with a gift from the Ladies Auxiliary of the GCVFA. In turn, Cindy was presented with a plaque for her dedicated service during her first year in office.

Joseph VanHolysteyn, interim President of GC Fire Chief's Association, introduced the Chief's Association officers, as well as their respective past presidents present. This year's honoree, Charles Fremgen, was presented with a plaque for his service as president. Connie Woodbeck, 2nd Asst. Chief of Oak-Hill Durham Vol. Fire Co. presented Charlie with a gift from the fire company. Charlie thanked his officers and family for the support and asked for continued support of the association. Garth Walker, President of



GCVFA PP: Gene Jennings, John Farrell Jr, Carl Sala, Dave Sherman and Harold Rivenburgh

GC Fire Police Assoc., introduced his fellow officers and the association's past presidents. The county presented him with a plaque for his term in office.

President Alberti recognized his officers and the Association's past presidents. He presented Past President David Sherman Sr. with a plaque and gift. Dave's family presented him with a gift which his daughter gave. Dave thanked everyone for their help and his family for their support. In turn, Dave presented Peter Alberti and Marilyn Schrader each a gift.

Frank Roberts of the Fire Police Association presented certificates from the NYS Police to Garth Walker and Linda Gaeta for their participation in the "Pumpkin" patrol. He also presented a plaque to Harry Sacco for his service as secretary to the Fire Police Association.

The GCVFA also presented several recognition gifts. Debbie Sherman was recognized for doing an outstanding job as GCVFA secretary. Dottie Jennings was honored for her service to the association as editor of the Booster Line for the past six years. Dottie thanked everyone for their support, as well as the gift.

In closing, President Albert thanked the Past President Dinner committee for a job well done. A benediction was given by Chaplain Coons and the evening was left to social enjoyment.

*Reprinted from the Booster Line (Greene County Newsletter)
Photos from Dottie Jennings*



GC Fire Chiefs Association PP: Dick Harty, Bob Lampman, John Farrell, Dave Sherman, Marilyn Schrader, Sal Alberti, Carl Sala, Charles Fremgen and Pat Pugsley



Greene County Fire Police Association PP: Lucy Masterson and Garth Walker



LA GCVFA PP: Nancy Ferretti, Diane Sala, Ruth Wood, Dottie Jennings, Linda Stacey, Beverly Jennings and Marilyn Schrader

THE BLUE VEST REPORT

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests

Napanoch Fire Co. October Blue Vests Meeting

The Napanoch Fire Company in the Town of Wawarsing in Ulster County hosted the Royal Order of the Blue Vests meeting on October 21, 2007. It is the home of the new Royal Order of the Blue Vests President, Mr. Santo 'Chan' Rivera.

The registration started at noontime with many members arriving earlier. President Rivera decided that a Directors Meeting was necessary and it was called to order at 1:00 PM. Several items were discussed that would be brought to the membership at the regular business meeting. One of the items discussed was the early starting time of the January Royal Order of the Blue Vests meeting in Lake George.

President Rivera opened the business meeting at 1:55 PM. The Invocation was given by the newly appointed Chaplain Robert J. Creifelds. (Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1, Saratoga County). The Committee reports included the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Installation & Banquet (Sept. 29), the Annual Christmas Home Day Program (Dec. 15), the January meeting that will be hosted by the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company (Jan. 20), and the Annual Steak Roast outing (June 19). Fin.Sec./Treas. George H. Hill reminded everyone that the 2007 Annual Dues are long past due and that he has started collecting the 2008 Annual Dues. Applications were read for two new prospective members. The two new members are as follows:

- George E. Eason ,Modena Fire & Rescue,Ulster County
- Anthony Garaventa, Earlton Fire Department, Greene County

Under New Business, the topic of increasing the membership in the Royal Order of the Blue Vests was discussed. The Annual Steak Roast Outing was changed from Members and male guests only to Members and adult guests only. Another idea was to allow the members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association to become members of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests. President Rivera directed the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to research this request and to draft a By-Law revision. The new kid on the block, Thomas McKinney, gave a brief report on the Firemen's Home and thanked the Royal Order of the Blue Vests for their continued support. HVVFA President Harry (aka Road Kill) Barrett gave a brief report on the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. FASNY Past Trustee, Robert McKinney, thanked the Royal Order of the Blue Vests for their attendance at his testimonial dinner and for their many donations to the American Museum of Firefighting, the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company, and to the Gary Grant scholarship fund. Delbe Spath gave a brief update on the upcoming FASNY election in the year 2008 and what is planned for our candidate, Joseph F. Kelly, as he seeks the Office of the Second Vice President in FASNY. Thomas McKinney gave a brief report on the Testimonial Dinner for retiring (2009) FASNY Board of Director James A. Ryan. Past President, Mr. Henry Tabor, announced that the Royal Order of the Blue Vests name plates are available at the cost of \$6.00.

President Rivera then called for the drawing of the winning 50/50 ticket. The winning (and very lucky) member this meeting was Past President William M. Mehan. As always, there were a lot of "Boo's & Hiss's" from all of the unlucky ticket buyers. A motion was made

and passed to dedicate this meeting to the memory of our deceased Director, Frank D. Dedrick.

Refreshments were available before and after the meeting. Everyone was welcome and the refreshments were delicious. A special Thank You goes to the members of the Napanoch Fire Company for hosting the October meeting, for their wonderful hospitality, and for the great refreshments.

Annual Christmas Party

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests hosted its Annual Christmas Party at the Firemen's Home, in Hudson, on December 15, 2007. The Officers and Members of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests started arriving about noontime. It was time for the Annual Christmas Party to start. President Santo 'Chan' Rivera introduced the Royal Order of the Blue Officers and welcomed all in attendance.

The Annual Christmas Party was officially started with the arrival of Santa Claus. There were six special Elves assisting Santa this year. The special Elves were Victoria L. Dichian, Connie Wood, Santo 'Chan' Rivera, Paul McCagg, John D. Shafer, and Fred Pettingell. Santa and his merry Elves distributed Christmas cards to the residents in the Home. After that, it was time for the Bingo games to start. Master Bingo Announcer, Fred Pettingell, stated, "Let the games begin. There are monies to be won."

The afternoon refreshments were served to the residents and were delicious. This year, the refreshments included cheese (smoked & sharp), pepperoni, chips, crackers, pretzels, party mix with dip, wings (sweet & mild), Swedish meatballs, kielbasa with sauerkraut, sliced kielbasa, pork ribs, potato (aka Shepherd's) meat pie, and Stromboli (aka garbage bread). Harry M. 'Road Kill' Barrett provided his usual delicious specialty. The Hillcrest Fire Department (Spring Valley) along with the Wayne Hose Company No. 1 (Stony Point) donated many of the refreshments. A special Thank you to:

- Hillcrest Fire department and to the Wayne Hose Company No. 1 for their many years of donating the refreshments,
- Harry M. 'Road Kill' Barrett for his usual delicious specialty, Fred Pettingell for announcing the bingo games
- George W. Harp and Mr. James A coons for the many hours (and years) that they spend making sure that everything runs smoothly and for coordinating the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Christmas Party.

There are almost ninety residents (male & female) in the Firemen's Home. They enjoy the festivities. The residents enjoy the feeling that their brother & sister firefighter's care. It is not just during the Christmas Season. The residents know that we care year round. It is the spirit of friendship that we share with the residents. There is one very special person who is a resident in the Firemen's Home— Ella Ernst. Ella is the Charter President (1948 – 1950) of the Ladies Auxiliary of FASNY. She will be 103 years young on her next birthday in April.

There were many Officers and Members of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests in attendance. There are many members who contribute throughout the year that were unable to attend. These people make the Annual Christmas Party a huge success.

Thank you for your support and for all that the Royal Order of the Blue Vests members does throughout the year for the residents in the Firemen's Home in Hudson.

Articles submitted by Michael Cesare

SAXTON HOLDS "FUN NITE"

On December 8, 2007, Saxton Fire Company held its annual Fun Nite at Gisano's Restaurant in Glasco (Ulster County).

The evening started with a delicious cocktail hour and then delicious dinner served. After some socializing and enjoying the music which was provided by Dusk to Dawn, Saxton Fire District Chief Terry Valk surprised two firemen by recognizing their longevity in the fire service. Richard Valk Sr. was recognized for his 50 years of service and John Lasher Jr. was recognized for his 52 years.



Among presenters of plaques and certificates of appreciation were Susan Cummings (representing Senator John Bonacic),

HVVFA Director Duncan Wilson, John Balling representing FASNY and OFPC.

Saugerties Town Board Member Bruce Leighton presented Chief Terry Valk with the "Fireman of the Year" award for the Saxton Fire District. The Town Board started something new this year by recognizing local fire fighters in the various districts who have made a difference in their community. Terry was very much surprised upon receiving the presentation.

Many other "fun awards" were given to members of the fire district during the evening as well. These were all in the name of the evening, Fun Nite.

Many thanks go out to Walt Lane for organizing the evening which made it a success.

Congratulations To Everyone For Your Accomplishments!



Article and pictures by John & Diana Balling

Above L-R: John Balling, John Lasher Jr, Richard Valk Sr. and HVVFA Director Duncan Wilson



Pictured above: Susan Cummings representing Senator John Bonacic

Pictured L-R: Jean and John Lasher, Chief Terry

DATES WE HOPE TO SEE YOU

February 2008

- 7 Greene County VFA Quarterly Meeting
Catskill Fire Department—8:00 PM
- 8 Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting
Hugh Gassner Fire Company – Chestnut Ridge
8:00 PM
- 12 Sullivan County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting
Long Eddy Hose Company—8:00 PM
- 13 Saratoga County VFA Quarterly Meeting
7:30 PM
- 19 Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting
Kerhonkson - 8:00 PM

March 2008

- 8 Lower Hudson Valley FASNY/WCVFA Legislative
Seminar—Montrose – Westchester County
- 12 Albany County VFA Quarterly Meeting
8:00 PM
- 14 Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting
Excelsior Engine Company – Pearl River
8:00 PM
- 15 FASNY/Hudson Valley/Hudson Mohawk Legisla-
tive Conference—Athens
- 16 Royal Order of the Blue Vests Meeting
2:00 PM
- 18 Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting Stone Ridge
8 pm
- 25 Orange County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting
8:00 PM
- 31 Putnam County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting
8:00 PM

April 2008

- 6 Westchester County VFA Quarterly Mtg. Riverside
Hose Co. #4—Tarrytown —1:30 PM
- 8 Sullivan County VFA Bi-Monthly —Loch Sheldrake
Fire Company #1 - Memorial Service—7:30 PM
- 9 Columbia County VFA Quarterly Mtg.—Chatham
Fire Department—8 PM
- 11 Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting—Blauvelt
Vol. Fire Company—Blauvelt — 8 PM
- 12 & 13 FASNY Spring Meeting—Holiday Inn –Albany
- 13 HVVFA Meeting —Kerhonkson—1 PM
- 15 Dutchess County VFA Quarterly Meeting –8 PM
- 15 Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting —Saxton Fire
Company — 8 PM
- 20 Red Vest Meeting—Winona Lake — 1 PM
- 26 HVVFA Fire Police Seminar—Loch Sheldrake Fire
Compnay #1—Sullivan County

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Submitted by Mike Cesare. Locations of various meetings not available at press time. If you have information, please email to cidmezur32@aol.com. Thanks for your help!

REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Association would like to thank the following for their generous donations to the Home on Hudson Valley Day at the Home:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| R.A. Snyder Hose Co. 1 | Columbian Hose Co. No. 1 of Peekskill |
| Stillwater Fire Departmetn | Bought Community Fire Company |
| Altamont Fire Department | Saratoga Volunteer Firemen's Association |

The Association would also like to welcome this new member since the last issue of the Hudson Valley Firefighter:

Raymond Carile of the Somers Fire Department

100% Membership in Hudson Valley 2007:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bay Ridge Fire Company | Brewster Fire Department, Inc. | Catskill Fire Company |
| Fearless Hook & Ladder Co.No.1 | Highland Falls Fire Department | Hortonville Volunteer Fire Co. |
| Kerhonkson Fire Company | Lake George Fire Department | Lake Placid Fire Department |
| Mahopac Fire Department | Napanoch Fire Company | Queensbury Central Fire Co. |
| South Glens Falls Fire Company | South Queensbury Vol. Fire Co. | Wallkill Ladder & Hose Hook |

100% Membership in H.V.V.F.A.:

If a Fire Company or Department joins H.V.V.F.A. 100% they pay an annual dues of \$6 per member instead of the usual \$8 per member and the Company or Department Dues is waived by the Association. If any Company or Department is interested in 100% membership just send me a copy of your roster in alphabetical order with addresses. I will check it against my records for any possible life members you might have (they are exempt from dues) and I will get back to you as to how much it will cost your Company or Department. THANK YOU.

George H. Hill H.V.V.F.A. Financial Secretary
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THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

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