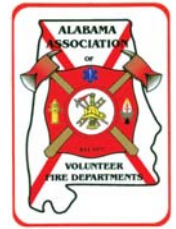




THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

October – December 2010



Season's Greetings



ALABAMA FIREFIGHTERS ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND

A previously established Annuity & Benefit Fund for volunteer firefighters was declared unconstitutional over 20 years ago. The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) has worked diligently through the ensuing years to pass legislation to again institute this benefit for our firefighters, volunteers and paid.

President Chauncey Wood spent many hours steering SB299, which establishes this fund, through the legislative system. Many firefighters worked with him on this important recruitment and retention tool that gives one more tangible benefit to fire service members.

On April 30, 2010, history was made for a second time when Governor Bob Riley signed SB299, sponsored by Senator Roger Bedford, into law (Act # 2010-726).

Work on the details began October 25, 2010 when the first meeting of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit Board of Commissioners was held in the AAVFD office in Montgomery. Members of the Board of Commissioners (by appointment) are:

Roy Mott - Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

Reid Vaughan - Alabama Firefighters Association

Robert Ezekiel - Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs

Dale Wyatt - Professional Firefighters of Alabama

Charlie Dixon - Governor Bob Riley, State of Alabama

This fund will provide retirement, disability, and death benefits to its members. Any firefighter who is actively serving a department in the State of Alabama may join the fund and may remain a member as long as they continue to serve.

The Commissioners are currently compiling a record-keeping method to establish a data base of eligible participants and the method used by firefighters to become members of the fund. Information about the Fund can be found elsewhere in this issue. A tri-fold with detailed information will be sent to all departments around the first of the new year.

Mrs. Sandra Mott served as Temporary Executive Director until Mr. Milton Parsons came on board as Executive Director. At this time, he can be contacted through the AAVFD office.



For more information and to obtain a registration form for participation in the **Annuity and Benefit Fund** go online at
www.alabamafirefightersabf.org

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Shay Wood



"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

On the front cover of our newsletter you will notice two wreaths. Holly, with its sharply-pointed leaves symbolize the thorns in Christ's Crown-of-Thorns. The red berries symbolize the drops of Christ's Blood. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have an opportunity to make sure we have an opportunity to make sure we have our priorities in the proper order. It's also an appropriate time for us to share with others less fortunate and help make their holiday season more joyful.

It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. We must never forget that it's the time we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. After His birth, the world would never be the same. It gave hope, then and forever more.

Where do I begin; so much has happened this year? I guess the best place is with the gratitude I have to many of you for your guidance, unselfish dedication and the steadfast support given to **OUR** Association and to me personally when I need it.

I have said it before numerous times, and it remains true: **YOU** are the unsung Heroes of **OUR** Association. Because of all you do behind the scenes at local and county volunteer fire department meetings and whenever firefighters/EMT's gather, you too are there! Remember "Only as far as we seek, can we go; only as much as we dream can we be!"

It's a new day in Alabama, and the outlook is "Red" without any doubt. I am told that state government in Alabama is "broke as a haint". The Federal stimulus money that kept the state afloat for the past two years won't be available next year. The new Governor will be inheriting a real mess. My prediction is there will either be huge cuts in 2011 in all agencies and probably in all segments of public education, or there will be new revenues. The prospects of any new revenue, however, are unlikely, I have been told. One of **OUR** main goals is to try to preserve the budgets of the agencies that directly support the fire services of Alabama.

In today's economy, we all know that budgets must be balanced and sacrifices made, but what the state and local governments fail to understand or appreciate is the importance of training to ALL emergency services, and I would point out that it affects the volunteer's services, in particular. I am not

saying that our paid brothers and sisters don't need training; of course, they do! But training to **VOLUNTEERS** is more than that. It's our recruitment and retention, our safety standard, and sometimes, our experience base.

The job of governing is going to be extremely difficult, and it will take a bi-partisan approach to problem-solving in dealing with the multitude of serious financial problems facing the state. This success offers both opportunities and challenges. AAVFD is ready, willing and able to work with Governor-Elect Dr Bentley and the Legislature. **OUR** legislation for 2011 is prioritized and ready to be pre-filed before the regular session begins March 1st.

The extraordinary December 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2010 session was successful in strengthening our ethics laws. AAVFD Fire Caucus Chair Representative Richard Laird introduced HB8 to amend our Annuity and Benefit Fund to include a voluntary check-off contribution on the Alabama Income tax form. This and three other bills introduced did not come up at all since ethics was a priority. Hey, I tried! It will be re-introduced in March.

In closing, I have faith THAT **OUR** Association is going to accomplish great things in the future, if we stick together as a team. **"Together Everyone Achieves More!"**

It's my prayer that each of you and your families enjoy good health and be safe and prosperous in the New Year. May God continue to bless **OUR** Association!

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2010 NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) and Rural Community Fire Protection Institute (RCFPI) are proactive in delivering the fire safety message.

When it comes to fire safety, there's nothing more important than early notification. This year's theme for National Fire Prevention Week is "Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with!" Make sure this theme comes across loud and clear. Motivate people to install smoke alarms so they can escape fire safely.

AAVFD President Chauncey Wood, RCFPI President Roy Mott and AAVFD Public Relations Director Charlie Dixon look on as Alabama Governor Bob Riley signs the Proclamation designating October 3-9, 2010 as Fire Prevention Week in Alabama, acknowledging the efforts of local fire departments and the support of these activities by the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Inc. and the Alabama Rural Community Fire Protection Institute.



FIREFIGHTER'S FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM AD&D INSURANCE

Stacy Waldrop of VFIS of Alabama presents Mrs. Priscilla Hodge with a check for the benefits from the AAVFD AD&D insurance policy following the death of her husband. State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk and AAVFD President Chauncey Wood look on.

Each year, the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments offers an AD&D insurance policy to its members. Enrollments have been sent to each AAVFD member department and coverage for the new year begins January 1, 2011.

Coverage of \$10,000 for a death in the line of duty/\$5,000 for 24-hr a-day coverage, plus \$50 per day disability for

line of duty injuries are \$12.00 per year. The \$20 policy doubles these benefits.

If you need additional applications, contact the office at 334-262-2833 or 888-972-2833.



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GAVE ALL

Firefighters and their families and friends gathered at the Alabama Fire College on October 9, 2010 for the seventh annual Alabama Firefighter Memorial Service. Each year this service is held to honor the firefighters of Alabama who have given their lives in the Line-of-Duty and to pay tribute to those firefighters who heroically serve with pride, courage and honor.

Joint Fire Council Chairman Ed Paulk, State Fire Marshal, welcomed guests to the ceremony that honored three fallen firefighters this year. The Presentation of Colors was conducted by Honor Guards from across the state. The keynote presentation was by Sharon Purdy from the

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The Last Alarm was sounded for Samuel W. Downing, Mobile Fire & Rescue Service, Anthony E. Maddox, Anniston Fire Department, and Joe Dennis Parker, Orange Beach Fire Department. This ceremony was followed by an inspiring Fly Over and the playing of Taps.

Closing comments were made by AAVFD President Chauncey Wood, followed by the postlude by vocalist Glenn Austin and the Tuscaloosa Firefighters Local 403 Emerald Society Pipes and Drums.



From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama

Green Pond VFD, Bibb County, hosted the Alabama Fire College EVOC course October 12-16, 2010.

During October Fire Prevention Week, students at Autaugaville School grades K-6 were awed by the fire trucks, other emergency vehicles and equipment, as volunteer fire fighters from Autaugaville, Jones, Old Kingston/Browntown, Pine Level, Marbury, and Pentecost Volunteer Fire Departments (Autauga County) took part in the demonstration. Also taking part was Autauga County Rescue Squad, Autaugaville Police Department and the Air Evac Life Team, which was flown in from Wetumpka Municipal Airport.

REMINDER: Please send your fire department patch to us for the AAVFD Office "Wall of Patches". Thank you to the following departments and fire service organizations that have sent a patch: Helwestern Fire & Rescue, Clarke County and Alabama Association of Rescue Squads.

Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, conducted a blood drive through the Red Cross on October 30th.

Turkey Heaven VFD, Cleburne County, sponsored a Turkey Shoot on November 6th with all proceeds going toward providing fire protection in the District.

Trimble VFD, Cullman County, hosted an EVOC Course & EVOC Refresher on December 9th.

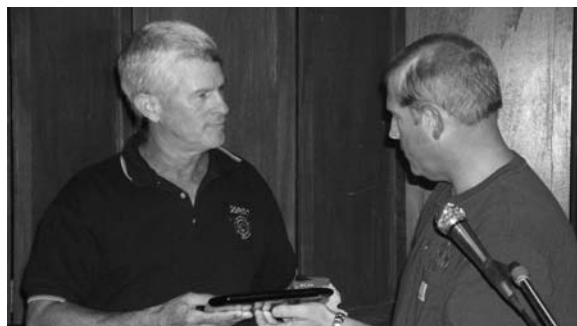
On October 26th, Victory Baptist School K4 class visited Millbrook VFD, Elmore County, where Fire Marshall Capt Doyle Campbell gave a lesson on fire safety and showed them a firefighter in full turnout gear with a department fire engine.

On October 16th the South Marengo County Fire and Rescue Squad of Sweet Water celebrated our 35th anniversary celebration. This event was attended by many former and current members.

The event was opened with a short devotion by one of our charter members, Rev. Hal Taylor. Speakers for the event were Mr. Doc Harper, former principal of Marengo High

School, Mr. Jeff Laduron, Mayor and volunteer fire fighter with the Town of Thomaston, and Mr. Richard Bates, former Deputy Sheriff of Marengo County. Video slide presentations showing pictures of old emergency calls, equipment, members was shown. The event was closed by a video montage of photographs of members who have deceased. This was lead by former member, Rev. Lon Baxter now with the Antioch VFD of Clark County. We would like to thank all the surrounding departments for the assistance and encouragement they have given us and our continued support for another 35 plus years.

Sam Powell (left) Gordo VFD Assistant Chief is presented the 2010 Pickens County Firefighter of the Year award by Pickens County Firefighters Association President Booty Cox



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ALABAMA FIRE SERVICE ANNUITIES & BENEFITS

After many years of effort, the Alabama Fire Service has an Annuity and Benefit fund for the dedicated fire service members of this state. Any firefighter who is actively serving a department in the State of Alabama may join the fund and may remain a member as long as they continue to serve. This fund will provide retirement, disability, and death benefits to its members. Please take a few moments to look over the FAQs included below:

Who is eligible to participate? Any person who is a member in good standing of a bona fide volunteer fire department (Section 9-3-17 Code of Alabama 1975/Certified by the Alabama Forestry Commission) or who is currently employed by a paid fire department in the State of Alabama (certified by the Personnel Standards Commission or currently working to receive certification). (All members will be required to maintain 30 hours of continuing education per year as prescribed by Code of Alabama 1975 Section 36-21-180-197 in order to participate in the fund and remain in good standing.)

Do I have to be certified to be a member of the Annuity and Benefit Fund? No, Volunteer Firefighters can either hold certification as through the Alabama Personnel and Standards commission as such, or be listed on the registry of eligible firefighters that will be maintained at the Alabama Fire College for all non certified volunteers. All paid firefighters are required to be certified or working toward certification and their status will be certified by the Alabama Fire College as well.

What is the cost of participation? Each person who meets the criteria for initially becoming a member of the fund will be charged a onetime fee of \$20.00 to establish their account. Each member of the fund will remit \$20.00 by the tenth of each calendar month thereafter until the period specified by the law is met.

What is the length of time a member must pay into the fund before they are vested? What is the length of time before a member has earned maximum benefits under the fund? A member who has 25 years of qualified service in the fund and has met all other requirements of the law is entitled to maximum benefits from the fund.

Do I have to participate in the fund? No, Participation in the fund is entirely elective on the part of a firefighter.

When will I be able to collect my retirement benefits? Any member shall, at any time after reaching the age of 62 and completion of at least 25 years qualified service, will be entitled to an annuity benefit.

What is "qualified" service? A member must continue to serve in a paid or volunteer position as a firefighter in the State of Alabama, meet the 30 hour minimum training requirement established by Alabama Law 1975 Section 36-21-180-197, and remit \$20.00 per month to the fund. Prior service may be purchased within two years of joining the fund at a price to be determined by the funds actuary.

If I decide to leave the fund do I lose all my money? Yes. Any member can withdraw from the fund. Once the forms have been accepted by the board the withdrawing member will receive 90% of the amount they originally placed in the fund. There will be no interest or additional benefit paid. If a firefighter takes this option and later wishes to rejoin the fund they will do so as a new member and there will be no credit given for prior service. A member who ceases to be a firefighter, may elect not to receive a refund and instead leave their total amount in the fund. However, the member may only do this for 36 months, and if the member has not been employed or accepted by a fire department the total of his or her fees will be returned to them.

What are the benefits for firefighters that are disabled? Any member who becomes totally or permanently disabled as a result of a heart attack or any injury received in the line of duty as a firefighter, not as a result of his or her misconduct, shall be eligible for benefits by filing the appropriate forms with the board. The member making the claim may be required to submit to a medical examination by one or more physicians selected by the board at the expense of the board. Benefits paid for disability shall not be paid for more than 24 months. Benefits will be paid on the following scale:

Members who do not have more than 35 months of qualified service will receive \$72.00 per month.

Members who have at least 36 and not more than 47 months of qualified service will receive \$108.00 per month.

Members who have at least 48 and not more than 59 months of qualified service will receive \$144.00 per month.

Members who have 60 months or more of qualified service will receive \$180.00 per month.



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ENTERPRISE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WINS 2010 GEORGIA-PACIFIC BUCKET BRIGADE™ GRANT

Every day, millions of people count on volunteer and rural community fire units to protect them and their property. More than 825,000 volunteer and small town firefighters do their jobs mostly without recognition and often without the latest equipment or training.

The Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department has won a 2010 Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade™ grant. Chosen from more than 120 applicants in Georgia-Pacific facility communities in 23 states, the unit will receive \$5,000 to purchase new turnout gear.

“We appreciate being chosen for the Bucket Brigade grant,” said Amelia Headley, Enterprise FD Rescue Chief. “We are going to use the grant to buy three brand new pairs of turnout gear for our department that we would not be able to purchase without Georgia-Pacific's help.”

For the fifth year during October -- National Fire Prevention Month -- Georgia-Pacific through its Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade™ initiative has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to help small town and rural community fire departments across the United States meet their most critical needs. This year's grants will total \$175,000, the largest amount awarded in the program's history.

“The grant awarded to the Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department is great news for Chilton County. The new equipment will help ensure the safety of our firefighters and improve the quality of life in our community,” said Kaye Clemmons, human resources manager at Georgia-Pacific. We are glad Georgia-Pacific could assist in helping this department to upgrade their firefighting equipment and training.”

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council and the National Fire Protection Association, fire and rescue units with volunteers make up 86 percent of all firefighting units in the United States.

As a Koch Industries company, Georgia-Pacific has a tradition of focused community investment. The Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade, launched in 2006, is just one of many worthwhile causes supported in Alabama through \$2 million in charitable contributions from Koch companies during the past five years.

“We know first-hand the significant role these fire units play in the life of a community. The Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade is one way we say 'thank you' for their work,” said Jim Hannan, CEO and President of Georgia-Pacific. “Many of our own employees are members of their local fire and rescue units, so we also know the need for the financial support necessary to safely continue the work these departments do.”



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2001 Pierce Quantum 105' Quint
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Waterous 2000 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Poly Tank
Around the Pump Foam System



1999 E-One Hurricane 75' Quint
Cummins M11 400 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060 Automatic
Hale QSMG 1500 Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Foam Eductor with 30 Gallon Tank



1998 Pierce Quantum 105' Quint
Detroit Series 60 500 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Waterous 2000 GPM Pump
200 Gallon Poly Tank
Husky Foam System/20 Gallon Tank



1998 American LaFrance 75' Quint
Caterpillar 300 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
ALF ALF150-21 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1998 HME/Ferrara 75' Quint
Detroit 350 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060 Automatic
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300 Gallon Tank
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Detroit Series 60 Diesel
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300 Gallon Poly Tank
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1989 Pierce Lance 105' Platform
Detroit 8V92 475 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous CMU 1500 GPM Pump
200 Gallon Steel Tank
Onan 7.5 KW Generator



1994 KME 75' Aerial
Detroit 400 HP Diesel
Allison HTB741 Automatic
Hale QSMG150-23 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



2003 Pierce Rescue/Command Center
Cummins Diesel, Allison Automatic
Onan 40KW PTO Generator
Will-Burt Light Tower
Cascade System
Full-Width Command Desk



1998 FL Walk-In Heavy Rescue
Cummins 300 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
AMPS 20KW Hydraulic Generator
Cascade System



1989 Oshkosh 6x6 ARFF Vehicle
Detroit 8V92TA 540 HP Diesel
Hale 2000 GPM Pump
3000 Gallon Steel Tank
400 Gallon Steel Foam Tank



2008 Sterling 4 x 4 Brush Truck
Cummins 305 HP Diesel Engine
6-Speed Automatic Transmission
Gas-Powered CAF System
300 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
12 Gallon Foam Tank



1989 Int'l 4x4 Brush Truck
International DT466 Diesel
Hale Auxillary-Powered Pump
500 Gallon Tank
VW Diesel Pump Engine
Winch on Front Bumper



1999 Freightliner Tanker
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5000 Gallon Tank



1997 FL Commercial Tanker
Cummins 5.9L 210 Diesel
Allison MD3060P Automatic
Gorman Rupp 400 GPM Pump
1800 Gallon Stainless Steel Tank
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1988 E-One 6x6 Pumper/Tanker
Detroit 8V92 Diesel
Allison Automatic
2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump
2000 Gallon Tank



1989 Mack Foam Tanker
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Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump
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Allison HD4060 Automatic
Waterous CSU 2,000 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
Foam System with A and B Tanks



1999 E-One Rescue Pumper

Cummins ISM 400 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
FoamPro System with A&B Foam



1998 Pierce Lance Rescue Pumper

Cummins M11 450 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
Feeson ATP Foam System



1997 Spartan Rescue Pumper

Detroit Series 60 430 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
A & B Foam System



1996 E-One Cyclone Pumper

Detroit 6V92TA 400 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1996 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper

Detroit 320 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Waterous 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Akron Foam System



1995 E-One Protector Pumper

Cummins 8.3L 350 HP Diesel
Allison 3000EVS Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1993 E-One Cyclone 4x4 Pumper

Detroit 8V92TA 450 HP Diesel
Allison HT741 Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1994 E-One Cyclone Rescue Pumper

Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Top-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank



1990 Pierce Lance Rescue Pumper

Detroit 6V92TA 350 HP Diesel
Allison HT-740 Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Top-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Feeson ATP Foam System



1990 E-One Protector Pumper

Cummins 8.3L 250 HP Diesel
Allison MT647 Automatic
Hale 1000 GPM Top-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Steel Tank



2003 FL/E-One Rescue Pumper

Caterpillar 300 HP Diesel
Allison EVS3000 Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



2001 FL/ALF Rescue Pumper

Cat 7.2L 246 HP Diesel Engine
Allison MD3060 Automatic
ALF 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
FoamPro Foam System



2001 FL/ALF Rescue Pumper

Caterpillar 3126 300 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank



2000 Int'l/Pierce 4x4 Rescue Pumper

International DT530E 330 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060P Automatic
Waterous 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
FoamPro 1600 Foam System



1999 FL/SC Rescue Pumper

Cummins ISC 300 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank



1997 E-One Ambulance/Attack

Cummins 300 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale Side-Mount PTO Pump
150 Gallon Poly Tank
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1994 International Medium Rescue

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"When Kellyton Fire was blessed with the opportunity to purchase our first new fire apparatus, we made the decision to purchase a KME pumper from NAFECO. We have never regretted that decision. We were so satisfied that we also purchased our rescue truck and most recently, a new NFPA compliant KME tanker from NAFECO. John Wilson and Brandon Oaks are extremely knowledgeable and have been a pleasure to work with. Kellyton Fire and the Kellyton Community are proud of our relationship with KME and NAFECO."

*Fire Chief Gerald Sewell
Kellyton Fire & Rescue*



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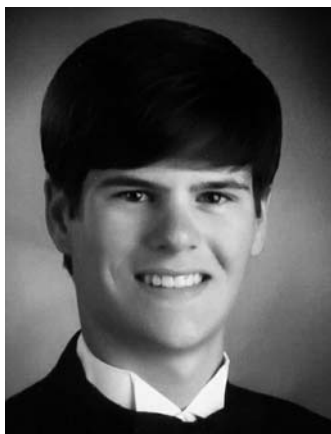
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2010 AAVFD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Each year, the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, in partnership with VFIS of Alabama, awards a \$1,000 scholarship to two deserving students. Scholarships are given on a one-year basis. Previous applicants and/or recipients must submit a new application each year to be considered. **Applications for AAVFD**

Scholarships must be postmarked no later than March 31st. If you are interested in applying in 2011, please keep this deadline in mind and get your application in before this date.

Winners of the 2010 Scholarships are:



Benjamin Reed Perry is a member of Lawrence Mill VFD in Fayette County. Ben, son of Firefighters Jack and Greta, is attending Bevell State Community College in Fayette. He is currently working toward his pre-requisite classes with plans to complete a 4-year degree, along with becoming an EMT and fireman/paramedic.



Sawyer Michael Spratlin is a member of the Fosters Crossroads VFD in Randolph County. Sawyer is the son of Michael and Jackie Spratlin. He plans to major in Engineering.

DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR THE 2011 SCHOLARSHIP BY MARCH 31, 2011.



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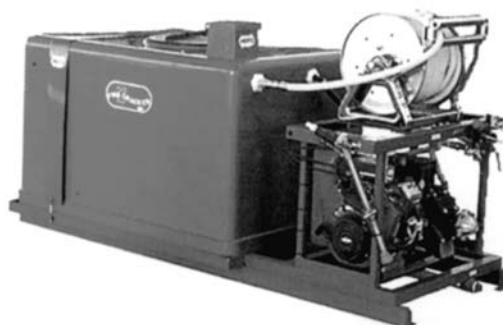
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FD-18V-300 L

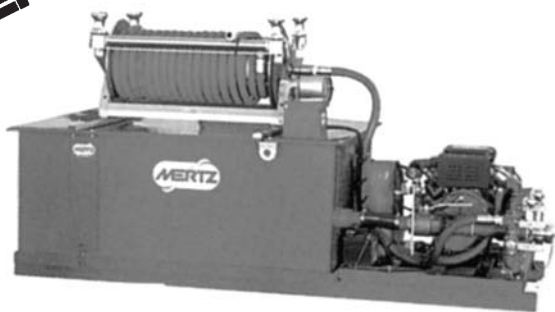


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Length	91"	91"	91"	91"	98.5"
Width	43"	43"	43"	43"	64"
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CHICKEN HOUSE FIRE KILLS 5,000 CHICKENS

AAVFD FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND LUVERNE FIREFIGHTER WILLIAM NEAL

The weekend of October 9-10th, 2010 was the Alabama Fire College Weekend. Luverne Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) sent six men to the Fire College. This cut into our first-out firemen available for a response. Many of our firemen work out of town or even out of country on oil rigs. The Fire Chief was leaving for Saturday evening, but I felt there were enough men to handle most calls.

I had just got off from work and walked into the house around 8:45 pm. A fire call was paged out at 8:59 pm for a brush fire on Patsburg Highway. I live only three blocks from the station. I started to the station and heard Lt Lee Simmons go en route with Brush Trucks 1 & 3.

I went to the station intending only to make out the report. Upon pulling into the back parking lot, I heard a fireman transmit "It is really a big brush fire!" The fireman, Mike Beck, lives about 2.5 miles from the reported location.

When I walked into the station, only myself and one other fireman was present. A few minutes later, it was transmitted by the first fireman on the scene that it was not a brush fire but a fully-involved chicken house fire. The initial firemen responded with brush trucks and Wildland turnout gear.

Lt Lee Simmons was on scene at 9:07 pm and requested tanker support immediately. Myself and the one other fireman in the station responded with one pumper and our tanker. I did a quick head count. All the available firemen were either on scene or en route. I immediately requested Brantley VFD dispatch a pumper to cover Luverne's station. Lt Simmons requested assistance from N.E.C., Goshen, Glenwood, Rutledge and Fullers Cross Roads VFDs. The old saying "Murphy's Law" was alive and well.

Upon arrival Lt Simmons had deployed units and a decision was made to abandon the chicken house itself because the roof had already fallen in on a considerable portion of the 400 X 50-foot building. I was driving the tanker. I knew where the closest hydrant was. I did not assume command but advised Lee to continue directing the incoming units. I took LVFD tanker to the refill hydrant about a mile away. I returned to find LVFD E-522 having serious drafting problems. I was able to direct another LVFD member to the tanker.

I checked with Lt Simmons and Lt McManigle; both were doing a good job of coordinating all of the incoming fire units. They had positioned units to stop the brush fires that had started to spread out. The primary effort was to stop the fire at the egg house that connected to the other 400-ft-long chicken house. I did a PAR check with chiefs from all five VFDs. All personnel were accounted for.

The problem of draft with LVFD E-522 persisted, and Rutledge E-517 replaced E-522. All departments handled their areas of assignment. A second drop tank was set up on the opposite end of the chicken house. After about two hours, the decision was made to start releasing units. A total of five engines, three brush trucks and three tankers spent nearly 2.5 hours on scene. There were at least 40 firefighters from five departments participating in the firefighting operation.

When LVFD returned to the station, firefighters started checking out E-522 to try to determine what was causing our drafting problem. A new probationary member found a 6.0 inch "O" ring on the ground and wasn't sure what it went to when LVFD picked up lines. We checked, and guess what! The "O" ring in one of our 6-inch suction lines was missing. "Murphy's Law" had giggled us twice that night. The ring had fallen out during the hooking up of suction lines in the dark, and no one noticed it.

The chicken house was a layer house with 4,500 hens and 500 roosters. It had been built in 1976. The worker who attended the house told me for the past two months, a breaker in the electrical box had been tripping on a regular basis.

LVFD returned on Sunday afternoon for a re-kindle in the egg house area. The second house was not damaged.

A Special Note on Pre-Planning: Three years ago, three of the five VFDs that responded to this fire cost-shared two fire hydrant installations at strategic locations in this area. The hydrant had been installed across the road from a milepost about a mile from the fire scene on US Highway 29. It was easily accessible by a farmer's barn. Prior to this, the nearest hydrant would have been four miles away.



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BANQUET

The Washington County Volunteer Fire Association held its annual dinner and awards banquet Oct. 2 at the Chatom Community Center.

Chauncey Wood, president of Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments was the guest speaker for the night as the association named its award winners for 2010.

Ricky Johnson, WCVFA president, said he would like to thank everyone for what they do in their communities.

"I would like to thank each volunteer and their spouses for what you do for this county," Johnson said. "We do more for our county as a volunteer than what people get paid to do."

The 2010 awards were presented awards to several individuals and departments.

Washington County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments presented the Ronnie Brown E.M.S. Award to Damon Kirkland of Red Creek Volunteer Fire Department; presented the Donnie Stallworth Firefighter of the Year for 2010 to Matthew Young of Fruitdale Volunteer Fire Department; presented the Fire Officer of the Year to Joe Smith of St. Stephens Volunteer Fire Department; presented the Dewey Reynolds Chief Award to Judy Ard of Fruitdale Volunteer Fire Department, and presented the Department of the Year to each Fruitdale and McIntosh Volunteer Fire Departments.

Wood said the volunteers in Washington County place their lives on hold to help people they may not even know in their communities.

"I know we love what we do," Wood said. "We excel in what we train to do. We are leaders who inspire others to do and be responsible. I love each of you in this room. We are like family and tonight my message is about unity."

"Look around this room and you see that all of you represent Washington County. Continue to do what you do and don't give up. Remember what you are doing because the reason is because you love your community. It's not because you want a radio on your hip or a Maltese cross on your chest. It's your commitment to your community."

In 2009, seven bills spearheaded by the state association of VFDs passed and were signed into law, Wood said. The 2010 session saw 13 bills passed and signed into law.

"Since becoming your president two years ago, our association has had 20 fire service bills passed," he said. "It took a lot of persistence and diligence by many talented people to complete our legislative agenda."

Currently, the state association of VFDs is working a bill to present to the House and Senate for fire and rescue to departments to become tax exempt, Wood said. A rough draft has been formed and will be presented in December before the March 1 deadline.

Wood informed the fire departments that with more than 1,000 departments and more than 30,000 firemen, the county organizations make up the third largest organization in the state.

Woods thank each volunteer represented for their service in Washington County.



“PINK HEALS TOUR” COMES TO ALABAMA

The Orange Beach Professional Firefighters Association Local 4309/Pink Heals Event Committee hosted the only visit of the “Pink Heals Tour” in Alabama. The goal of the event was to raise awareness and provide support for those affected by breast cancer.

The event was held on October 2nd at the Warf in Orange Beach. Baldwin County Volunteer Fire Departments assisted in making this huge event a great success!

During the Pink Fire Truck Parade, a firefighter was held “hostage” on the roof until 300 women signed up for cancer screenings. Free Medical screenings and wellness advice for women were only a few of the highlights.

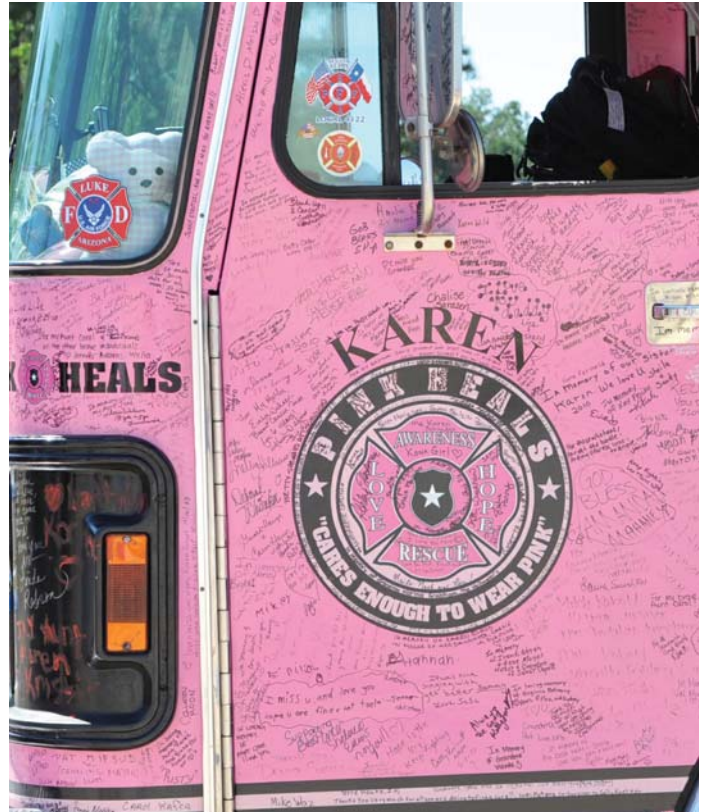
During October, businesses were encouraged to “Turn Baldwin County PINK” by advertising, displaying and wearing pink in this honor. Several Fire Department members wore PINK uniforms to show their dedication to this cause.

The lives of most area firefighters have been personally touched by women who had been affected by Breast Cancer and were happy to provide financial, emotional and local support to members of their own department.

Recently the Orange Beach Local purchased, through Pink Fire Dept T-shirt sales, a used fire truck that was painted pink and adopted into the tour as an independent chapter and will tour with the nationally recognized “Pink Heals Tour”. These trucks are used as a symbol of hope for

many and an attraction to help accumulate the resources needed to help the many people who are physically, emotionally and financially struggling with this disease.

You can get more information on the “Pink Heals Tour” at www.pinkfiretrucks.org.



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2011 AAVFD Membership – Total 265 as of 12/16/10

DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		4 of 10
CHEROKEE	100%	13 of 13
DEKALB		
ETOWAH		
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON		
MARSHALL		

DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT		
CULLMAN		
JEFFERSON		
SHELBY	42%	8 of 18
ST CLAIR		
WALKER		
WINSTON		

DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		2 of 13
GREENE		
HALE		
LAMAR		
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER		
TUSCALOOSA	100%	21 of 21

DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS		
CLAY		
CLEBURNE	100%	12 of 12
COOSA		
RANDOLPH		
TALLADEGA		3 of 18
TALLAPOOSA		

DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA		
BIBB		
CHILTON		
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO		
PERRY		
WILCOX	100%	10 of 10

DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR		
COFFEE		
DALE		
GENEVA		
HENRY		
HOUSTON		
PIKE	100%	9 of 9

DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

BUTLER		
CONECUH		
COVINGTON	100%	20 of 20
CRENSHAW		
ESCAMBIA		
MONROE	100%	15 of 15

DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		12 of 32
CHOCTAW	100%	14 of 14
CLARKE		
MOBILE		
WASHINGTON	100%	19 of 19

DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

COLBERT		
FRANKLIN		
LAUDERDALE		
LAWRENCE		
LIMESTONE		
MARION		
MORGAN	100%	22 of 22

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK		
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE		
LOWNDES		
MACON		
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL		

SMOKEY BEAR EDUCATES CHILDREN ON FIRE PREVENTION

LEARNING WITH SMOKEY – Green's Crossroads VFD and Baker Hill VFD participated in the Wildland Fire Prevention Grant program sponsored by the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments in partnership with The Volunteer Departments of Alabama, Alabama Forestry Commission, Rural Community Fire Protection Institute and the USDA Forest Service. The two VFD's worked together, along with Smokey Bear, to provide information and educational materials to local primary school children. The program began in 2000, provides funding to enable the Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments to encourage children and adults in the rural/urban areas to be safer with fire through fire prevention.



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THE BELL TOLLED

Frank "Brandon" Francis, Jr., Alexandria VFD, Calhoun County, passed away August 4, 2010.

Chief David F. Lowe, Jr., Highway 51 VFD, Bullock County, passed away October 3, 2010. Chief Lowe was also a member of the Union Springs Fire Department and served as a City Dispatcher for the Union Springs Police Department.

Captain Grady Gould, Coffeeville VFD, Clarke County, passed away October 6, 2010. He had been with the department for 13 years.

Homer "Possum" Caldwell, New Hope VFD, Madison County, passed away October 10, 2010. He served 40 years in the department, becoming chief in 1976 and serving until his retirement in 1997.

Vann Lindsey, Centre VFD, Cherokee County, passed away October 12, 2010.

Retired Chief Guy Black, Guin VFD, Marion County, passed away October 20, 2010.

Henry Sellers, Texasville VFD, Barbour County, passed away October 27, 2010.

Asst Chief Stanley Burt, Dogtown VFD, DeKalb County, passed away December 4, 2010.

Joe Pugh, Jr., Meeksville VFD, Pike County, passed away December 10, 2010. He gave 25 years of service to his department.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to the family of Jimmy Conner, and his wife Janie, on the loss of her daughter, Talisha Ann Clark, who passed away October 20, 2010. "Bull", as he is known to friends in the fire service, is Regional Services Director at the Alabama Fire College.

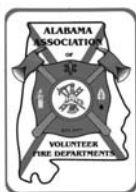
Former Representative Frank "Skippy" White passed away October 21, 2010 after a long illness. Rep. White (District 66 in Escambia and Baldwin Counties) was a strong supporter of the volunteer fire service statewide.

Our condolences go out to Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen, whose mother, Betty L. Pilgreen, passed away October 27, 2010. She had been fighting an illness for three years.

If any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night: Chauncey Wood – (334) 403-0301, William Neal – (334) 335-3643, Steve Dennis – (334) 283-2110 or Derrick Gatlin (256) 230-3526.

A copy of the booklet "Death In Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office.

1-888-972-2833 or www.aavfd.org.



About The Volunteer: The *Volunteer* is issued 4 times a year: in Jan, April, Jul, and Oct. Articles, information, and advertisements for the newsletter must be in Montgomery not later than the 15th of the month before publication.

Articles & Information: Submissions of articles, letters, and information for inclusion in this newsletter are greatly appreciated and encouraged. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous material will be published. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections, and style.

Other AAVFD Information: ALL Membership information, Insurance information, changes of address, and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery office.

AAVFD Officers:

President Chauncey Wood
1st VP William Neal
2nd VP Steve Dennis
3rd VP Derrick Gatlin
Secretary Mary Jane Sells
Treasurer Charles Jackson

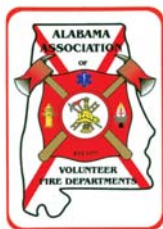
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