



# THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the  
**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

April - June, 2004

## 2004 State Conference Information

The AAVFD Annual Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19, 2004, in Dothan, Alabama and will be hosted by the Houston County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association. The registration headquarters will be at the Quality Inn.

### Registration

Pre-registration for the Conference will be \$20.00 per person and increases to \$25.00 when you register at the Conference. Included in this fee are the Friday night cookout meal and the Saturday night banquet. (Pre-registration form included in this newsletter.) You must have your registration nametag to eat at the cookout on Friday night and at the banquet on Saturday night.

### Elections

At the annual business meeting on Saturday, elections will be held to fill the officer and board member positions.

**Officers:** The nominating committee made the following recommendations:

For the Office of:

President .....Johnny Dennis (I)  
Bobby Atkins

Vice President

Southern Area ..Clayton Cobb, Sr. (I)

Central Area.....John Wilson

Northern Area ..Don Shield (I)

Joey Boyd

Secretary .....Mary Jane Sells (I)

Kalyn Ray

Treasurer .....Rhonda McKissack (I)

Gary Cobb

Kalyn Ray, Nominating Committee Chairman, states that Mike Carlisle, Marengo County, declined the nomination for Vice President from the Central Area because of increased job responsibility.

Floor nominations at the annual meeting may join these. Per AAVFD By-Laws, all candidates, except those presented by the nominating committee, must be nominated from the floor and must be present at the annual business meeting. All six officers are elected by majority vote of the members in attendance and those members represented by proxy.

**Board Members:** Each District (1 through 10) will elect two individuals to represent their district on the Board of Directors for the coming year. AAVFD By-Laws require that those two individuals shall not be from the same member department and, in so far as possible, shall come from differ-

ent geographical areas within the district. Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected by a committee consisting of one individual from each dues-paid general member department from within the district (**ONE VOTE PER DEPARTMENT PRESENT**) at the general meeting.



"Fire prevention is the smart way to fight a fire." Mr. David Frederick of the Alabama Forestry Commission presents a check to President Johnny Dennis to fund a Wildland Fire Prevention Grant available to volunteer fire departments and county associations.

Information, containing an application, was mailed to all County Association presidents March 10th. Completed applications for this grant must be returned to the AAVFD office postmarked no later than May 31, 2004. If needed, additional applications may be found on the AAVFD website [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org), the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute [www.refpi.com](http://www.refpi.com) and the Alabama Forestry Commission [www.forestry.state.al.us](http://www.forestry.state.al.us).

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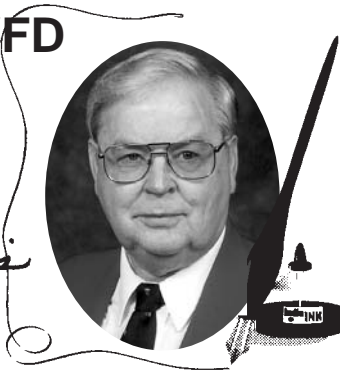
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## FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Johnny Dennis*



### AAVFD Legislative Report

In the past, our legislative sessions began in a typical way with legislators lining up to support or oppose the many issues concerning our state. However, this year because of our state's financial crisis, the lines seem more divided with one group wanting to solve some of the state's problems while others are determined on keeping things the same. The outcome of this session seems more hopeless and less productive than ever before. Legislators wanting to pass bills that would provide some funding to supplement the \$35 million deficit came head-to-head with those who oppose any effort to increase the general funds. Without an increase in funding, the volunteer fire service will once

again pay the price with less funding for 2005.

This association has introduced three bills for this session. Senate Bill 305, sponsored by Senator Butler requires Alabama to follow the same guidelines Congress passed in 2003 regarding firefighters' heart attacks and strokes in the line of duty. Senate Bill 414, sponsored by Senator Denton, will charge a person with murder in the event a firefighter dies in the line of duty as a consequence of the crime of arson. Senate Bill 463, by Senator Mitchell, is a job protection bill that prevents an employer from terminating an employee who serves as a volunteer firefighter or EMS while on an emergency.

### AED PADS

By the time you receive this issue of "The Volunteer", the replacement pad program under UAB should be in place. However, this program is directed to departments that have used an AED on a patient. For those departments who are fortunate enough to have used your AED on a call, I suggest you do a monthly check on your unit for battery power and pads being out of date. The expiration date for pads is printed or stamped on the electrode pad pouch in which the pads are stored. If this date is passed, an investment in a new set of pads for only a few dollars is advised. Keep in mind the next person your AED may be used on could be you.

### AAVFD Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the AAVFD Board of Directors will be at the Annual Conference in Dothan AL on Friday, June 18th at 4:00 pm. The Association's annual meeting will be Saturday, June 19th, at 2:00 pm.

### It's Not Too Late To Send Your 2004 Insurance Enrollments!

The new year for AD&D insurance enrollments began on January 1, 2004, but it's not too late to send your renewals/applications to the Montgomery office. Policy cost is \$12.00 per year for \$10,000 coverage or \$20.00 per year for coverage of \$20,000. Coverage begins on the date your applications reaches the office. If you need additional applications, contact the office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833.

### Annual Dues Reminder

Annual dues to AAVFD were due on January 1, 2004 and should be sent to the Montgomery office. Membership dues for county associations with 100% membership are \$35 per department. Dues for individual fire departments are \$40 per department.

If you have not sent in your dues, please take a moment to

do this now. If you are not a member and wish to be, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833, and we will be glad to provide you with membership information.

### Annual Award Nominations Due by May 31, 2004

Each year the association presents an award for Firefighter of the Year and the Sherry Garner Memorial Award. The Sherry Garner Memorial Award honors Alabama's first lady firefighter lost in the line of duty.

The nominated individual must be a member of a volunteer fire department that is a current member of AAVFD. No form is necessary. Recommend the firefighter and tell why you think he or she should be recognized, attach statements by others, if you wish.

These awards are not for valor. Information about a heroic act may be included in some recommendations, but these acts are not necessary to be eligible for one of these awards. There are many far-above-average personnel around this state who have not yet been singled out for their volunteer service to their communities. This is your opportunity to recognize that person for the many significant contributions that they have made.

Nominations must be mailed to the AAVFD office no later than May 31st. The awards will be presented at the annual Conference in Dothan.

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**NOTE: The AAVFD office mailed proxy ballots on May 11, 2004. Please contact the office immediately if the county president has not received the ballot for your county.**

## Proxy Votes

AAVFD Secretary Mary Sells will accept proxy votes at the Conference on Friday, June 18, 2003 from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. On Saturday, June 19th, proxy votes will be accepted from 10:00 am until 1:30 pm. Location will be announced.

According to AAVFD By-Laws, all proxy votes shall be called for three times by the presiding officer as the first agenda item following the opening ceremonies of the general meeting. All proxy votes must be turned in to the Secretary before the third and final call for proxy votes. Once the third and final call is given and the presiding officer has officially declared the proxy votes closed, proxy votes cannot be accepted from anyone for any reason.

All proxy holders who will be casting proxy votes at the annual business meeting are reminded that no proxy vote will be honored for a department having one or more members at the meeting. Although a proxy ballot containing a list of all county departments is sent to each county president, a department is not required to give its county president, or anyone, the authority to cast its department's vote. If one person is present at the meeting that person shall vote their department's one vote; whether that person votes or not, the proxy holder shall not be entitled to vote for that department.

In order for the annual meeting to progress in a timely manner, it will be very helpful for the representative from all departments voting to come by and register with the Secretary during the hours set aside to accept proxy votes. However, any person voting for their own department is entitled to a ballot up until the final call for proxy votes has been made.

## 2004 AAVFD CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2004

9:00 am – 5:00 pm .....Registration in Lobby at Quality Inn  
Noon – 1:00 pm .....Lunch on your own  
Noon – 5:00 pm .....Vendor Room at Quality Inn  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm .....Training at Westgate Fire Station  
Jim Smith – Clandestine Lab Hazards  
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm .....Board of Directors Meeting Elks Lodge (Next Door)  
6:00 pm .....Bar-B-Que Cookout – Poolside at Quality Inn  
Square Dancing, Music, Door Prizes,  
Boiled Peanuts (Bring you name tag)

### SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2004

7:00 am – 8:00 am .....Competition Registration – Westgate Park  
8:00 am – 8:30 am .....Competition Captains Meeting – Westgate Park  
8:30 am – Noon .....Competition at Westgate Park  
8:00 am – until .....Registration at Houston County Sales Booth  
in Vendor Room  
8:00 am – 2:00 pm .....Vendor Room Open  
10:00 am .....Water Shuttle Exhibition by Screamer VFD  
Noon – 1:00 pm .....Lunch on your own  
2:00 pm – 5:30 pm .....Annual Business Meeting at Elks Lodge  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm .....Awards Banquet at Dothan Civic Center  
9:30 pm – 12:30 am .....Social Time in Lounge at Quality Inn  
Disc Jockey, Dancing, Karaoke

### Directions to Quality Inn and Holiday Inn Express in Dothan

From 431 N, take right onto Ross Clark Circle and proceed around to just past 84 W. Holiday Inn Express and Quality Inn are on right. (Approximately 3 miles from 431.)

From 231 N, take right onto Ross Clark Circle and proceed around to just past 84 W. Holiday Inn Express and Quality Inn are on right. (Approximately 2 miles from 231.)

From 84 W, take right onto Ross Clark

Circle, Holiday Inn Express and Quality Inn approximately 200 yards on right.

### Fundraiser Drawings

Anyone who wishes to sell tickets for a fundraiser drawing at the AAVFD Annual Conference must get prior approval from the AAVFD Board. Send a letter outlining the item you propose to give away to the Montgomery office no later than June 1st. Approval will be sent in writing, and you must have it with you at the Conference.

## Conference Competition in Dothan

*Joey Boyd, Competition Chairman*

Competition in Dothan is fast approaching, I'm sure some teams are already out practicing. With there being no Firefighter Appreciation Day this year, I look to many more teams being at the State Competition this year. In the past years, we have had some great competition from the teams. And I look for this year to be no different and one of the best ever! So you better be on top of your game plan. Because there is always a team out there who will surprise you.

Though times have not yet been set, I'm sure we will begin around 8:00 am with a captain's meeting. Do all the usual things, draw for starting spots, decide in which order we will run the events, and try to answer any question anyone has before starting. Then competition will start at 8:30 am, hopefully. The competition site will be at the Water Park, just down the road from the hotel. There is plenty of grass to set up your tents, so bring your coolers and

chairs. I hope we have a lot of people come out to support the teams.

The events we will be running this year are: The Air Pack Relay, the Obstacle Course and the one where someone is sure to get wet, the Water on the Roof. There's an ole saying I keep hearing every time the tub is brought out. "I'd rather NOT!" But you know, I haven't seen it do a lot of good. You can run, you can hide, but there's someone who will find you and catch you.

If there are any questions, feel free to email me at [fightsfire@aol.com](mailto:fightsfire@aol.com). I will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the competition. If you don't have email, you can always call me at 256-233-1597. If I'm not home, which seems to be quiet often, just leave a message. I'll call you back.

A full set of Competition Rules can be obtained by calling the AAVFD office at 1-888-972-2833 or 334-262-2833.



# 2004 Annual Conference to be Held in Dothan

Houston County President  
Kenny Givens, Chairman

The 2004 AAVFD Conference will be hosted this year by the Houston County Volunteer Firefighters Association on Friday and Saturday, June 18-19, 2004.

The motel location is the same as 2000; however, both have changed their name. Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) and Holiday Inn Express (formerly Hampton Inn) will host the annual event. One is owned by the other and is adjacent to each other – almost like one very large motel. (Total of 214 rooms)

You may make reservations by calling 334-794-6601. When the Quality Inn is full, they will ring and switch you to the Holiday Inn Express. Room rate is \$55, plus tax. Deadline for reservations is June 4, 2004.

You know, of course, you need to pre-register for the conference at a cost of \$20 each. Failure to do so will cost you \$5 more.

Kenny Givens will serve as Chairman and may be reached during the day at 334-793-0074, night at 334-677-3101 or via e-mail [chiefkennyg@yahoo.com](mailto:chiefkennyg@yahoo.com).

The guest speaker at the Awards Banquet is Comedian David LeFebvre. David has entertained crowds from Anniston to Monroeville with his imitations of famous people in the news. He will be a star performer for the Houston County Peanut Festival held in Dothan this year.

This is our 4th "Lucky Draw" at this thing. You should know by now, we are going to try to show you a good time.

Don't wait till the last minute to reserve your room and pre-register – why not do it now?

## An Invitation

On June 18-19 2004, the AAVFD Conference will be held in Dothan, Alabama. Of course the annual meeting and election will be held on that Saturday afternoon. Hope you plan on attending.

I would ask each County Association President and all Volunteer Fire Departments that are members of the AAVFD to spend time this year reviewing the candidates running for all AAVFD officer positions. If you don't know them, ask around. Someone has probably known them a long time. It is time that the AAVFD Membership takes responsibility for who is elected to serve and move forward the Volunteer Fire Service of Alabama.

You will be receiving Proxy Votes for the AAVFD election prior to the annual meeting. If at all possible, each County should send at least a representative to the Conference to vote your Proxy Votes. Take the time to handle this during your County Association meeting and decide how you want your County Proxy votes to be handled. Don't set back and let one person decide how they are going to be handled and voted. Better yet, someone from each AAVFD membership department could come to Dothan and enjoy some great food, fun and fellowship with other fire-fighters from across Alabama.

I have been asked about my feelings on the AAVFD and RCFPI. I will make this one short and sweet. The AAVFD has its place and so does the RCFPI. I think that we should not have officers of leadership in the AAVFD or RCFPI that are the same people. When you get the same people running two different groups, they cannot focus 100% on both.

*Yours in Service*

Roger D. Wilson, Director District II



**Roger D. Wilson**  
Director, District II

## CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Please make your check payable to **HCVFFA**

Mail check and pre-registration form to:

**HCVFFA, P.O. Box 246, Cowarts, AL 36321**

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

Our Fire Department is \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT name of each individual

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## Don's Perspective

*by Don Shield  
Alabama Firefighter*

Retired Chief, Hebron VFD Marshall County after 20 years, D.R. Enos passed this spring at 87 years young. D.R.'s life had been dedicated to the fire service and had spanned well over a half century. On September 25, 1998, then Governor Fob James proclaimed a day in his honor for 50 years of service to volunteer firefighters. He had been employed by the American Coach and American Fire Apparatus companies for over forty years before retiring in 1987. After moving to Alabama, he became one of the organizers in 1983 of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, then serving as Chief until 2003.

D.R. had served as Director or Alternate Director District 1 of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments since 1984 thru 1999. D.R. had also been a member of the Alabama Forestry Commission Steering Committee. D.R.'s contributions to the AAVFD, District 1, Marshall County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments and the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department are endless. "D.R. helped us get two trucks from up north when we were starting our fire department" Chief Marshall County VFD. "D.R. was a true gentleman" another quote.



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# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

**T**HE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS statewide continues to pay off in improved ISO ratings. Listed below are changes in ratings.

DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING	DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING
<b>Effective January 1, 2004</b>				<b>Effective March 1, 2004</b>			
Hillsboro	Lawrence	9/9	6/9	B S & W	Butler	9/9	8/9
Uchee Creek	Russell	9/10	4/9	Bullock	Crenshaw	9/9	7/9
Yarbro	Washington	9/9	7/9	Gantt	Covington	9/9	7/9
<b>Effective February 1, 2004</b>				Marvin Chapel	Pickens	9/9	7/9
Cottonton	Russell	9/10	7/9	McKenzie	Butler	8/9	7/9
Franklin	Monroe	9/9	7/9	Myrtlewood	Marengo	9/9	6/9
Red Creek	Washington	9/9	7/9	Oak Grove-Thach	Limestone	9/9	6/9
				Romulus	Tuscaloosa	9/	5/9
				Webb	Houston	8/9	5/9

Congratulations to these departments and their hard working members! Improved ISO ratings are what we are often measured by and it's obvious that Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments measure up!

Congratulations to Assistant Chief Jim Strall, Carbon Hill VFD, Walker County, who received the Raymond "Gilder" Kelley Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award. Walker County Firefighters honored Jim for 36 years of service to his community and the county.

Foley VFD, Baldwin County, and Atlantic Training Associates, Inc are hosting F.A.S.T. (Firefighter Assist & Survival Tactics) Rapid Intervention and Rescue School on April 3-4, 2004.

Congratulations to Captain Peter Kine who was honored as Craig VFD Firefighter of the Year in Dallas County.

Congratulations to Chief James S. Corley, Craig VFD, who was honored as 2004 Dallas County Firefighter of the Year.

Congratulations to Lt. Scott Ellis, Craig VFD, who was named Dallas County EMT of 2004.

Congratulations to Ricky Goodman who was honored as Firefighter of the Year and Joe Haskew who was recognized as Most Improved Firefighter by Fulton VFD, Clarke County.

Fulton VFD, Clarke County, presented the "Behind the Scenes" Award to James Johnson, Gerry Crosby and the Fulton VFD Ladies' Auxiliary.

Millbrook VFD, Elmore County, was honored with a "Thank You for Your Service" dinner hosted by New Life Church on March 12th. Also, recognized for the work of the local heroes was Millbrook Police Officers.

Grove Hill VFD, Clarke County, received 27 SCBA's purchased with a \$125,000 FEMA grant. The department also purchased an air compressor to fill air bottles for local fire departments and public safety agencies.

McCullough VFD, Escambia County, hosted a Child Birth Class conducted by Dr. Hargity on March 6, 2004.

Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, hosted a Child Birth Class conducted by Dr. Hargity on April 19, 2004.

Celebrated nationally for more than 30 years, EMS Week (May 16-22, 2004), is a time to acknowledge and reward volunteers for the skill and effort they display throughout the year.

Lauderdale County Association held its 26th annual Awards Banquet on January 31st.

Terry Lovelace, Chief of Central VFD, was honored as the 2003 Lauderdale County Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. His wife, Elaine, received a plaque in honor of her service. Chief Lovelace has been a member of Central VFD since it was established in 1973 and was elected chief in 1984. He is approaching his 20th year as chief.

Kenny Wright, Chief of Elgin VFD, Lauderdale County, was honored as 2003 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year for his exceptional service over the past year.

Michael Hendon, Cloverdale VFD, Lauderdale County, was honored as the outstanding Rookie Firefighter of the Year.

Greenhill VFD, Lauderdale County, earned the People's Choice Award as the outstanding Department of the Year 2003.

The first recipient of the 2003 Lauderdale County EMS Star of Life was awarded to Lynn Smith, Oakland VFD.

The 2003 Lauderdale County Individual Fire Prevention Award was presented to Nathan Springer, Green Hill VFD.

Eva Kavich, Waterloo VFD, was named 2003 Lauderdale County Ladies Auxiliary Individual of the Year.

Greenhill VFD was presented the Lauderdale County Alabama Forestry Commission Smokey Bear Award based on the department's "training, fire control, fire prevention, equipment maintenance and cooperation" program.

Tim Lamb, Cloverdale VFD, was presented the 2003 Lauderdale County Parking Attendant Award.

# 15th Annual Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner & Vendor Show

The 15th Annual Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner and Vendor Show was held on March 20, 2004 in Montgomery, Alabama. The day began with vendor area opening to the public at Noon. In the vendor area attendees could visit with more than 25 companies and organizations. The vendors displayed everything from the newest fire trucks to sticker decals. Also available during the day were two free workshops. Ms. Vicki Murphy with FEMA was present to host a grant-writing workshop and two police officers with the Daleville Police Department hosted a workshop on the dangers of meth labs to first responders.

These classes were a success with close to 100 participants in each. Both presented a wealth of information to attendees.

The annual Dinner began at 7:00 p.m. The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments' Honor Guard opened the event with the presentation of colors followed by the national anthem. Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley was the first to speak at the event followed by Alabama Attorney General Troy King. During the evening we heard from many other distinguished guests such as Colonel Walker with Alabama Homeland Security and acting State Fire Marshal Richard Montgomery. This event allows the Institute the opportunity to present many awards during the evening. Mr. Johnny Dennis was presented with the Institute's Betty Gober Inspirational Award. Lacey's Spring Volunteer Fire Department received a Community Service Award and Chastity Hutchcraft's family was presented with



***The AAVFD Honor Guard presents colors at the RCFPI Annual Dinner.***

a Special Achievement Award in honor of Chastity's fire prevention work. This year, the Institute chose to go with a comedic guest speaker, "Dollar" Bill Lawson. The evening came to an end with a closing video presentation and closing remarks from our Master of Ceremony, Institute President Don Shield. We hope that everyone that attended had an enjoyable evening.

The Institute would like to thank the volunteers, Board of Directors and their spouses for their hard work during this annual event. Without your help, this event would not be a success. We would also like to thank the many vendors for their support of the Institute and support of this function. Last, but certainly not least, to the many fire departments and county associations that purchased tickets to our event, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our organization over the past 15 years. Without you, this event would not even be possible.



*Lacy Springs VFD, Morgan County, was honored with the Community Service Award.*



*Acting Fire Marshall Richard Montgomery*



*Attorney General Troy King*



*Chastity Hutchcraft family posthumously accepts a Special Achievement Award for Chastity's fire prevention work.*



*Colonel Jim Walker, Homeland Security Advisor*



*Guest Speaker, Comedian "Dollar" Bill Lawson*



# AAVFD Candidate Focus

**Candidates' Biographies are listed below alphabetically, according to the office they are seeking.**



TO: All Volunteer Firefighters

I, **Bobby J. Atkins**, am announcing that I am a candidate for President of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments 2004-2005.

I have 36 years of Fire Service and Management skills with the City of Decatur and Hartselle Fire Department and TVA Brown Ferry Nuclear Plant. I have also been an Emergency Medical Technician for 15 years.

I have been in the Morgan County Volunteer Fire Service for 27 years, a Board Member for 14 years, Chairman of the Board 5 years, Vice President for 2 years and was Ninth District Director in 1986-1987.

I can bring to this association much-needed leadership. My goal is to unify all volunteer fire departments in Alabama to move our state association in the direction that would be a model for all to see.

With the support of all the county associations and fire departments, we can accomplish this goal, so that everyone will be involved with what is happening in their state association.

This will be done by your President, Vice Presidents and District Directors keeping you informed on issues involving fire service of this state. Let's make the ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS the best in the nation.

I need your VOTE and SUPPORT at the annual conference June 18-19, 2004 at Dothan, Alabama.

Thank you, Bobby J. Atkins, 614 Rock St SE, Hartselle AL 35640, 256-773-9522



## **Johnny Dennis:**

- President and one of the founders of Underwood-Petersville Fire Department, 1979
- Chief, Underwood-Petersville Fire Department, Lauderdale County, 1992-93
- Served as Director and Alternate Director, AAVFD
- Current President, AAVFD
- Established the state office of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, 660 Adams Av, Montgomery
- At the request of Senator Tom Butler, Madison County, coordinated the training and purchase of AEDs in 1999 AED pilot program.
- Established the AAVFD Honor Guard

- Member, AAVFD Honor Guard
- Developed the AAVFD credit card
- Requested a grant from the Governor's Office on National and Community Service, for the "Alabama Needs You" Recruiting posters. The association received a \$5,000 grant.
- Assisted in drafting applications for foundation grants in the amount of \$235,000 and a grant from AEDCA, in the amount of \$300,000, which was applied to the statewide AED program
- Requested the Alabama Public Service Commission for a reduction in utility rates (electrical) for Volunteer Fire Departments. A rate decrease was granted by Alabama Power Company and other electrical utility companies serving South Alabama.
- At the request of Dr. Williamson, Alabama Department of Public Health and the Cardiac Arrest Survivor's Commission, coordinated the purchase of over 650 AEDs from foundation grants, state grants, and funds appropriated by the state legislature.
- Requested an appointment from EMA for a volunteer firefighter to serve on the Hazardous materials Advisory Committee, granted in 2001.
- Appointed two Volunteer Firefighters to the Alabama Mutual Aid Advisory Committee (EMA)
- Appointed by Governor Siegelman in 2001, as the first volunteer firefighter to serve as a Forestry Commissioner to the Alabama Forestry Commission
- Represented the Alabama Volunteer Fire Service at the first National Fire Service Benefit Summit 2001, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Chairman Second National Fire Service Benefit Summit 2002 in Gulf Shores Alabama, 27 states attending
- Testified in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 13, 2003, on behalf of the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Western Governor's Association regarding the National Fire Plan established by the Clinton administration in August, 2000
- Appointed by Senator Lowell Barron, 2003, to a four-year term to the Cardiac Arrest Survivors' Commission
- Chairman, AAVFD Wildland Fire Prevention Grant Program provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission, 2002-2004
- Represented Alabama's Volunteer Fire Service at the Third National Fire Service Benefit Summit, Sacramento, California, February, 2003
- Member of the Action Committee (Joint Fire Council), which raised funds for the Alabama Firefighter Memorial
- Represented Alabama's Volunteer Fire Service at the Fourth National Fire Service Benefit Summit, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, April, 2004
- Attended the National Fire Service Dinner Washington DC, May, 2004 as part of Alabama's Fire Service delegation, meeting with Alabama's Congressional leaders regarding the Fire Service National Funding programs
- With the approval of the AAVFD Board of Directors, working with Historic Properties (OLD ALABAMA TOWN), City of Montgomery, to develop a Fire Museum with office space for AAVFD state headquarters. Second option to this project is with United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development in financing a museum and AAVFD office outside the city of Montgomery. Currently meeting with both Old Alabama Town and USDA, this project is open to the association.

# AAVFD Candidate Focus (Continued)



My name is **Joey Boyd**. I am seeking the office of Vice President of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. I live in the East Limestone community with my wife of twenty-two years, Sandy Boyd and my fifteen-year-old daughter Carma Nicole Boyd.

I became involved with firefighting in 1981 when I started dating my wife. I had no knowledge of firefighting nor desire to become one at the time. But my wife had been involved since she was around fourteen years old running calls with her father, who was chief at the time we started dating. So it was either run calls with her or sit alone. No one likes sitting alone so I started running calls with her, at first just watching with amazement. I moved to East Limestone while we dated and began to run calls, becoming a member of East Limestone Volunteer Fire Department.

I, along with my wife, became the first volunteer firefighters in Limestone County to be certified through the Alabama Fire College as Volunteer Firefighter I. I became an EMT Basic right after taking the test of FF-1 and then was certified as Instructor 1.

In 1986, I was employed with the Redstone Fire and Emergency Service on Redstone Arsenal. In 1989, I was promoted to Driver/Operator and still serve in this position.

In 1989, I was elected to the office of Chief of the East Limestone Volunteer Fire Department and still serve in the position as Chief today.

In 1984, the AAVFD Conference was in Huntsville AL. We attended the Conference and during the election I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors as District 9 Alternate Director. I remained Alternate District Director for two years, and then was asked to serve as District 9 Director. I served as Director for another two years.

In 1989, I was asked to run for one of the Vice President positions and was elected, serving as Third Vice President of AAVFD. In 1989, I was on the founding board of the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute, serving one term on the Board.

From 1989 till 1997, I have served in the positions of Third, Second and First Vice President of AAVFD. In 1997, I voluntarily stepped down from the position of First Vice President. The following year I was asked to seek the office of Vice President by members of the AAVFD. I was reelected to the office of First Vice President of AAVFD and served until 2003.

During this time, I have served, and continue to serve, the association as Competition Chairman, conducting the state competition at the annual conferences, as well as county competition events throughout the state each year.

I have served a total of eighteen years on the Board of the AAVFD. I have seen many come and go over the years. When I left office last year, I said that I would not be one of those who disappear. This is my association, as it is yours. With your help we can make a difference and make the fire service better for all.



**Don Shield:** Diversity, knowledge and organizational skills benefit the decision making process. I'm proud to be an Alabama volunteer fire fighter and have the time available committing to serving all as your Vice President.

Served with Hammondsport VFD, New York, Susquehanna Hose Company, Maryland, as Firefighter/Driver. Since 1988 have served with the Central VFD, Madison County, Alabama State Certified Volunteer Firefighter, Driver, Captain, Vice president, President. Attended Central Alabama College, Hazardous Materials Technician degree program. Also served Madison County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments as Vice President and President. AAVFD conference chairperson for Madison county 1994 and 1999.

Since 1989 I have served the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments as an Alternate Director, Director, your Treasurer for 8 years and now your Northern Vice President. During my tenure with the association, I have served on many AAVFD appointments and committees: AEMA, Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee, Alabama Joint Fire Council, AAVFD Legislation Committee, Rural Community Fire Protection Institute. During my appointment to the RCFPI, I have served as the President and member.

Other tasks over the years to help promote the AAVFD and Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the state have been, AAVFD Web Page, AAVFD EGroups, National Benefits Summit, articles in AAVFD Newsletter (Don's Perspective).

Monitor Alabama Fire Chief's EGroup to pass value added information along to AAVFD members. One of the most gratifying moments over the years was the day at an Alabama Joint Fire Council Meeting when the council was able to say the Alabama Firefighter's Memorial is reality and construction will begin.



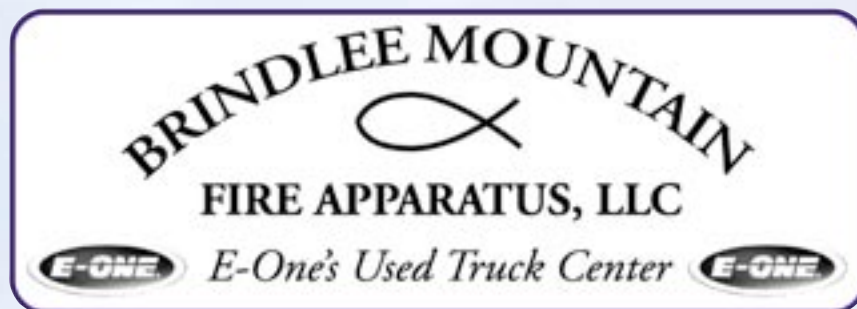
To: All Alabama Volunteer Firefighters

I, **Kalyn Ray**, am announcing my candidacy and have been nominated for Secretary of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments for the upcoming 2004 - 2005 year.

I am married to a career firefighter and the Assistant Chief of the Lee Chambers Volunteer Fire Dept. We have two children, ages 18 and 14. My son is a Volunteer fire fighter as well as a Basic EMT. My daughter's ambition is to become a forensic investigator and work for the State Fire Marshall's office as well as being a Volunteer firefighter.

I have been affiliated with the Lee Chambers Volunteer fire dept since 1989. I have been a dispatcher, firefighter and now I am the Captain over EMS. I have been the Secretary of our fire department association for the past two years, and the Secretary for our County Association for the past ten years, I have held the position on the board as Alternate Director of

*AAVFD Candidate Focus continued on Page 16*



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1800 Gallon Poly Tank

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500 Gallon Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Automatic Transmission



**\$59,000**

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Spartan Monarch Cab  
1997 Aerial Retrofit w/ Nylon Slide Block Kit  
20KW Diesel Generator  
Detroit Diesel/ Allison Automatic



**\$155,000**

1984 E-One 95' Tower  
1500 Hale Pump  
200 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



**\$28,000**

1982 E-One Pumper  
1000 Hale Side Mount Pump  
500 Gallon Tank  
Diesel Engine  
Automatic Transmission



**\$49,000**

1982 Mack 106' Quint  
1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump  
150 Gallon Tank  
Mack Diesel  
Automatic Transmission



**\$79,000**

1989 Pierce Dash Pumper  
1250 Waterous Top Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Cat Diesel  
Allison Automatic



**\$59,000**

1987 Quality Pumper  
1250 Waterous Top Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Steel Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



**\$23,500 w/o Amkus Equip**

**\$29,000 w/ Amkus Equip**  
1987 Ford Mini Pumper  
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Gasoline Engine  
Automatic Transmission

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750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Cat Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$59,000  
1992 Ferrara Rescue  
International Chassis  
Enclosed Seating for 6  
Ramsey 12K lb Winch  
Diesel Engine/Automatic Transmission



\$65,000  
1988 E-One Hush Pumper  
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump  
500 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$139,000  
1999 Saulsbury Freightliner  
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Cummins Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$69,000  
1986 E-One 80' Ladder  
Enclosed Cab  
4KW Onan Gasoline Generator  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



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1500 Darley Side Mount Pump  
3000 Steel Tank/ 180 Foam Tank  
Enclosed Seating for 6  
Cummins Diesel/ Allison Automatic



\$29,000  
1981 E-One Commercial Pumper  
1000 Hale Side Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Automatic Transmission



\$35,000  
1982 Sanford Pumper  
Ford C-8000 Chassis  
1000 Hale Side Mount Pump  
1100 Gallon Steel Tank  
Diesel Engine/ Automatic



\$88,000  
1990 E-One Hush 50' Telesquirt  
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump  
500 Gallon Poly Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$110,000  
1992 Beck Pumper  
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Cummins Diesel  
Allison Automatic



Call for Pricing  
1994 Pierce Custom  
1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump  
500 Poly Tank/ 20 Foam Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$30,000  
1989 F-350 Mini-Pumper  
300 Waterous Side Mount Pump  
250 Gallon Tank  
4x4  
Diesel Engine/ Manual

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“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:8

# AAVFD Candidate Focus (Continued)

District 10 for six years and this year I am the Director of District 10. I have also been the Nominating Committee Chairman for the past four years.

As you can see, I have several years of experience as a Secretary, and believe that I could be a great asset to the Board and to the AAVFD. I will bring the knowledge that I have of firefighting, medical and secretarial skills to the Association.

I am asking for your support and votes in the upcoming election in Dothan June 18-20.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

Thank You, Kalyn Ray



My name is **Mary Sells**, and I'm declaring my candidacy for Secretary of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. I am from Atmore Alabama in Escambia County and a member of the McCullough Fire Department.

I have served as Board Secretary of AAVFD for the past 2 years. I'm very concerned about the success of the AAVFD. I've been active in the fire service for 9 years, currently serving as secretary of my department for the last 6 years. I was honored with the AAVFD Sherry Garner Memorial Award in 2001.

After the 9-11 attack on our fellow citizens, I wanted to do more for the fire service. That's when I joined the AAVFD Honor Guard because I believe that our Firefighter's who pass away deserve all the respect in the world, and that's the last thing that I, as an Honor Guard member, can give them and their family. I've really enjoyed being able to serve as the State Secretary and do hope that I can continue serving you for more years to come. I could sit here and write you a story about my life, the fire service & my contributions, but that's not what makes a Secretary. It is getting the job DONE and DOING it right.

Thanks for your support, Asst Chief Mary Sells, McCullough VFD, AAVFD Secretary



It has been an opportunity to serve as treasurer of the AAVFD for the 2003-2004 year. I am seeking re-election to the treasurer position for the upcoming 2004-2005 year. I am a member of the Oak Ridge Volunteer Fire Department in Morgan County. I served as secretary of Oak Ridge for three years. I have been a volunteer fire fighter for over 12 years. I am 160 hour state certified, have my 40 basic firemanship, hazmat and I am a first responder. I served as the secretary/treasurer for the Morgan County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments for two years. I am very active in volunteering and doing volunteer work. I have been a PTO officer at F. E. Burleson Elementary School for the past three years. I served as treasurer, vice president and will finish my term as president at the end of May. I have recently had the opportunity to work with The Tennessee Valley Exposition in Morgan County as an event organizer. The Exposition is working on putting together a yearly Fire Fighter's Competition and vendor exhibit. We hope to eventually have all state paid and volunteer fire departments participating in this event.

My goal as treasurer is to help see that the state association's money is being spent as it should. There are many issues that need to be addressed in how the money is being spent. It is time that this state association work together as a team. For too long it has been a "me" thing and now is the time to stand up and put "WE" back into the state. I encourage each and every one of you to take a good look at the candidates running this year. Stop letting others tell you how to vote and take a stand and help put this association back on track. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions on how this state association's money is being spent. I am offering to you an open door policy because you deserve to know what is going on. I have nothing to hide, I know how to stand my ground and I will do what is right. It has been a pleasure to serve you and I covet the friendships that I have made this past year. I hope to serve you again in 2004-2005. I thank you for your consideration and I would greatly appreciate your support. Sincerely, Rhonda McKissack, AAVFD Treasurer.



## **Gary Cobb**

- I received by B.S., M. S., and Ed. S degrees from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama.
- I spent 2 years in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, including 1 year in Viet Nam.
- I taught science and biology on the middle school, high school, and college levels during by 30 years as a teacher. I retired from teaching about 6 years ago.
- I have been a member of the Brindlee Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for the past 15 years. I am a state certified Firefighter II, Fire Instructor II, and have been a Paramedic for the past 13 years. In our Fire Department, I have served as the Secretary of the Department and as the EMS Captain. Our department has a class 5/9 ISO rating and is a non-transport ALS Service running out of three stations in 2 counties.

- I was selected Male EMT of the Year by the Morgan County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments two different years.
- I am currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Morgan County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.
- I have served as the AAVFD representative to the State EMS Advisory Board, the Cardiac Arrest Survivors Commission, and on other EMS committees over the past several years.

Thanks, Gary



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# Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act

On December 15, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act (S.459/HR 919), which expands the Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) program to cover public safety officers who died of heart attacks or strokes in the line of duty.

If a public safety officer dies as a direct and proximate result of a heart attack or stroke, that officer shall be presumed to have died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty if:

- That officer, while on duty —Engaged

- in a situation, and such engagement involved non-routine stressful or strenuous physical law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, prison security, disaster relief, or other emergency response activity\*; or
- Participated in a training exercise and such participation involved non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activity\*;
- That officer died as a result of a heart attack or stroke suffered —
- While engaging or participating in

- such activity as described above
- While still on that duty after so engaging or participating in such an activity; and
- Such presumption is not overcome by competent medical evidence to the contrary.
- Non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activities exclude actions of a clerical, administrative, or non-manual nature.

*NOTE: This legislation is not retroactive and will only cover cases from December 15, 2003 forward.*

## The Lighter Side

This is the best lawyer story of the year, decade, and probably the century.

A Charlotte, NC, lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against fire among other things. Within a month having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company.

In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost “in a series of small fires.” The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The lawyer sued ... and won!

In delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The Judge stated, nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable fire, and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the rare cigars lost in the “fires.”



**Craig VFD, Dallas County, upgraded from a 1962 pumper to a 1989 pumper.**

NOW FOR THE BEST PART.

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!!! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

This is a true story and was the 1st place winner in the recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest.

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# Being A Volunteer

By: Jason Zigmont  
jason@volunteerfc.org

Too often we talk about being a volunteer without thinking about what it really means. I know for me, and others, I was literally raised in a firehouse, and responded to my first call about a week before I was born. :) While for some it is in our blood, others may not understand what it is like to be a volunteer, and what it takes.

When I joined, the Chief told me that "Family, church, and work come first". This statement has stayed with me over the years, and I've told it to others. The problem comes when members put the department before what is really important and end up suffering because of it.

Recently a firefighter told me about how his business had suffered due to being at the department too much, and this is a real shame. While we all have it in our blood, sometimes we need to take a step back and look at what is important.

There are always things to be done at the department, and we always feel that if WE don't do it, no one will. The truth of the matter is that if you pick up the slack, people will just get lazier, and you'll get busier. The cycle continues until you burn out.

We have all been there. It starts when you are practically living at the department and your life revolves around it. Then your personal life starts to get stressed, and the guys start getting on your nerves. Finally either your personal life explodes, or there is a 'personality conflict' with a fellow firefighter. Then you end up avoiding the department for a period of time until the cycle starts all over.

When you look around your department, you will be able to see people in all areas of the cycle. What you will also find is the few 'dinosaurs' who have found the middle ground that has allowed them to be 40+ year members. This is an area where it is good to learn from your 'elders'.

As you could guess, the Chief who gave me the advice in the beginning was a 'dinosaur', known as the silver fox. While he and I may not agree on much, his statement still rings true. It is a balancing act that we all need to learn, and teach to our 'new' members.

It sounds counterproductive, but it is actually good to teach restraint, and not overextend our volunteers. We need manpower, but if we manage our manpower, and our time, we will get more out of all of our members rather than just the old 80/20 rule. (For those of you unfamiliar with the 80/20 rule, it is simply that 80% of the work is done by 20% of your department.)

Many departments are starting to have 'requirements' either in number of calls, drills, or overall participation. I am a big proponent of meeting the state required minimums, but we need to understand that we are 'volunteer' organizations, and if you make a member choose between the department and their family, their family will always win.

If it sounds like a balancing act, that is because it is. Members have a responsibility to balance their time, and leaders have a responsibility to respect a member's time. If you schedule a drill or function, have a list of what is going to be done, when, and finish on time. Two weeks ago I touched on activity versus productivity, and this is exactly the issue. There is nothing worse then asking a member to go out of their way for a drill/fund-

raiser, just to have them show up and stand around.

As a member, use your time wisely, and respect your family. In some cases, your family takes a greater toll then you do when you volunteer. If you respect your

family and their time, they will 'give' you more time to go to the FD just to 'hang'. We may be a brotherhood of firefighters, but we were brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and loved ones first.

## Summary of Distribution for 2003 Assistance To Fire Fighters Grant Program

STATE	DEPARTMENTS	AMOUNT	PERCENT
ALASKA	45	\$ 5,242,409	.75%
ALABAMA	293	\$23,329,443	3.36%
ARKANSAS	210	\$10,675,746	1.54%
ARIZONA	73	\$ 7,490,693	1.08%
CALIFORNIA	255	\$30,060,494	4.32%
COLORADO	100	\$ 6,168,646	.89%
CONNECTICUT	100	\$10,841,283	1.56%
DELAWARE	10	\$ 1,096,900	.16%
FLORIDA	164	\$16,344,984	2.35%
GEORGIA	160	\$13,791,170	1.98%
HAWAII	3	\$ 947,988	.14%
IOWA	273	\$16,087,582	2.31%
IDAHO	74	\$ 6,001,932	.86%
ILLINOIS	358	\$28,810,209	4.14%
INDIANA	222	\$20,456,942	2.94%
KANSAS	179	\$10,850,439	1.56%
KENTUCKY	238	\$19,832,077	2.85%
LOUISIANA	150	\$12,248,654	1.76%
MAINE	136	\$10,323,275	1.49%
MARYLAND	69	\$ 8,153,775	1.17%
MASSACHUSETTS	140	\$15,715,753	2.26%
MICHIGAN	280	\$17,247,342	2.48%
MINNESOTA	239	\$17,510,369	2.52%
MISSOURI	259	\$19,573,231	2.82%
MISSISSIPPI	230	\$15,679,171	2.26%
MONTANA	138	\$ 8,361,224	1.20%
NEBRASKA	116	\$ 7,820,999	1.13%
NEVADA	26	\$ 3,312,851	.48%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	71	\$ 4,584,944	.66%
NEW JERSEY	223	\$19,982,959	2.87%
NEW MEXICO	64	\$ 5,048,856	.73%
NEW YORK	454	\$34,320,708	4.94%
NORTH CAROLINA	285	\$22,864,162	3.29%
NORTH DAKOTA	84	\$ 5,105,909	.73%
OHIO	292	\$26,997,527	3.88%
OKLAHOMA	199	\$10,540,679	1.52%
OREGON	98	\$ 9,896,206	1.42%
PENNSYLVANIA	540	\$45,179,556	6.50%
PUERTO RICO	29	\$ 1,643,280	.24%
RHODE ISLAND	25	\$ 2,327,940	.33%
SOUTH CAROLINA	144	\$11,832,083	1.70%
SOUTH DAKOTA	99	\$ 5,602,226	.81%
TENNESSEE	268	\$19,306,617	2.78%
TEXAS	344	\$29,264,566	4.21%
UTAH	64	\$ 4,628,978	.67%
VERMONT	73	\$ 5,163,233	.74%
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1	\$ 544,660	.08%
VIRGINIA	148	\$15,816,878	2.28%
WASHINGTON	165	\$18,808,921	2.71%
WEST VIRGINIA	119	\$ 9,942,713	1.43%
WISCONSIN	265	\$18,234,697	2.62%
WYOMING	36	\$ 3,507,270	.50%

TOTAL 8,630 \$695,121,059

This summary report is based on the US Fire Administration published Grant Summary for Fiscal Year 2003 Award Recipients (through March 5, 2004).

Categories	Number of Awards	Amount of Awards*
Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety	6,901	\$492,671,198
Fire Prevention	295	\$ 14,070,509
Firefighting Vehicles	1,367	\$184,233,676
EMS	67	\$ 4,145,676
TOTAL	8,630	\$695,121,059

\*Note: Award recipients under Sec. 1701.2(b)(4), Fire Prevention Programs, are not included.

# BUDGET FRIENDLY

## NEW SKID PUMP UNITS

Mertz Fire Apparatus has built skid units up to 1,500 gallons, with pumps from all Fire Pump Manufacturers, which includes Hale, Waterous, and W.S. Darley. Mertz Fire Apparatus also provides pumps by Hypro and Udor. Vanguard electric start engines are featured on all pumps and Honda engines are available. The Mertz 16V1550 Series pump system will pump up to 170 gpm at 170 psi and will pump in excess of 50 gpm @150 psi.

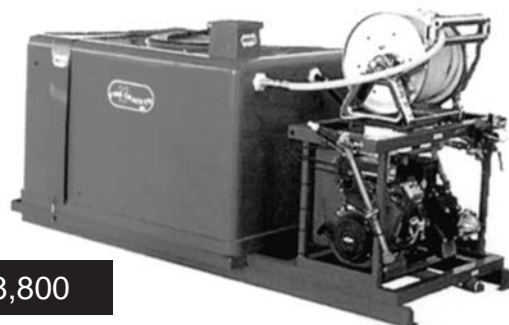
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### FD 18V 300 L

This is the 18 hp version of the famous "FireCracker." With pressures of over 500 psi this is the top of the line "Wildland" firefighter. Standard tanks up to 300 gallon, but larger optional tanks are available. Engines from various engine manufacturers are also available. Optional foam systems can be installed.

Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI  
Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM  
Maximum Speed: 550 RPM  
Number of Cylinders: 4

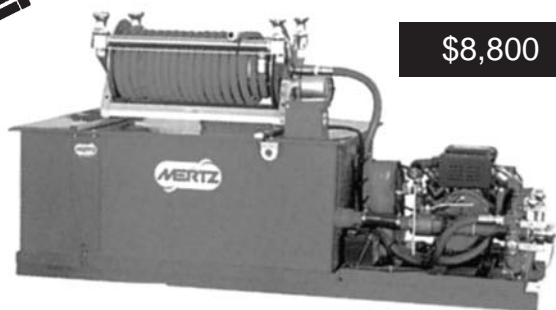
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The Alabama Legislature has appropriated funding for Volunteer Fire Departments for many years. The Alabama Forestry Commission distributes this funding for Alabama's Volunteer Fire Departments. This year because of the drastic budget shortfalls the legislature reduced funding for Volunteer Fire

Departments by 50 percent. This means that instead of the \$2,242 check that you received last year, this year's check will be for approximately \$1,192. These checks will be available for distribution in early June.

In an effort to get every dollar possible to the Volunteer Fire Departments, several items that have been funded out of the grants in the past will not be funded at all this year. Items that will not be funded this year include: County Fire Association grants, Fire Fighter Appreciation Day and RCFP Steering Committee meeting per diem.

The 2005 budget has not been voted on by the Legislature at the time of this writing, but in the budget that the Governor recommended to the Legislature funding

for Volunteer Fire Departments was zeroed out, however in the Legislative process funding for Fire Departments has been restored to the same level as 2004. The final outcome on funding for next year won't be known until the Legislature passes the General Fund budget.

State funding for the Forestry Commission was cut by 18 percent this year. This has meant a reduced operating budget and approximately 50 vacant positions. In the Governor's recommended budget to the Legislature the Forestry Commission's state funding is cut an additional 7 percent on top of the 18 percent cut last year, again we won't know the final outcome until the General Fund budget is passed.

— David Frederick

## **UAB** CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

### Workplace and Environmental Safety and Health

*Shannon Stephens  
Clinical Research Coordinator  
Department of Emergency Medicine*

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and in the state of Alabama. Alabama has the nation's second-highest death rate from cardiac arrest, behind Mississippi, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Though funds provided by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy, the Alabama Department of Health (ADPH) and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) have secured a grant to continue the work of Senator Butler in providing Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and training for emergency responders in rural communities throughout the state.

This grant program will address the needs of rural Alabama citizens who suffer an increased rate of death from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OOH-CA). Alabama averages over 5,400 OOH-CA cases per year, with a survival rate estimated to be less than 3%. National survival estimates from OOH-CA are 4-5%, but communities that have been successful in implementing

rapid defibrillation programs have survival rates of 40-55%, including some rural communities. Thus, implementing an effective and widely disseminated program to improve OOH-CA in Alabama has the potential to save thousands of lives each year.

ADPH has contracted with the Department of Emergency Medicine at UAB to scientifically measure the effectiveness of a quick response by emergency care providers equipped with AEDs for patients who sustain cardiac arrest. This program will provide an AED and training for responders who do not already have an AED and replacement pads for responders already equipped with as AED. Response systems interested must meet minimum qualifications including, respond to 911 calls for cardiac arrest, have a minimum of four members trained in the use of the AED, and participate in the data collection process. This process consist of notified UAB via a toll free 800 number each time pads are applied to a patient during an emergency response regardless of whether the device is discharged. The operator will ask 8-10 questions regarding the event and

if energy was discharged, prompt the responders to carry the AED to a predetermined location within your county and connect the AED to modem. This will download the electronic data within the AED to UAB. This normally takes 2-3 minutes. Once this is verified at UAB, you will be mailed a set of replacement AED pads from ADPH at no charge. This saves you \$ 35 for the cost of pads.

With your participation, Alabama will be the first state in the country to have a statewide database of cardiac arrest patient and this valuable dataset will help identify future placement locations and validate the programs existence. We believe that with our community partnership and the ability to validate our programs intent that good science will translate into good public policy and pave the way for future funding opportunities in emergency care in Alabama.

Written notice of this opportunity will be sent to the President of each County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. I hope you will choose to participate in this important and convincing AED patient outcome study. This study is expected to begin within sixty days.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Mr. Hugh Hollon at 334-260-5383. We look forward to hearing from you.

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# ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

## BY-LAWS

### Section 15

*All proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, in writing, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments in writing to all voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to any meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by at least 2/3 of the voting members present to become effective.*

#### Proposed By-Law Changes

(For the Annual Business Meeting, 2:00 pm, June 19, 2004)

#### Change 1.

To create in Section 5

Section 5:

(6)(a) Anyone holding office in this Association, whether elected or appointed, whose membership dues have not been paid as described in Section 4: Dues, that are not paid by the end of the month of February, shall remove themselves from office and a replacement will be appointed as described in Section 5: Officers (3) and Section 5 (6).

**SYNOPSIS:** In order to be a voting member of the AAVFD Board of Directors, this will require that the department's current membership dues of all members of the AAVFD Board of Directors be paid by the end of February.

#### Change 2.

Section 7: Voting

Currently reads:

3c. Preferably in every case, the individual to vote proxy would be a person from the same county.

Amend to read:

3( C ) The individual voting proxy shall be from the county for which the votes are being cast.

**SYNOPSIS:** This will require proxy be voted only by an individual from that county.

#### Change 3.

Section 7: Voting:

Currently reads: 3(f). Each dues-paid member department for whom proxy is given must be listed on the proxy or on a list firmly attached thereto. The proxy is to be signed by the County Association President (Chairman) if all departments in that Association are included; otherwise, the proxy vote must be signed by the fire chief of each department giving authority for the proxy holder to vote.

Amend to read:

3(f) Each dues-paid member department for whom proxy is given must be listed on the proxy or on a list firmly attached thereto. The proxy is to be signed by the County Association President (Chairman) and each Volunteer Fire Department head (Chief and/or President) of said County giving authority for the proxy holder to vote as instructed by the listed Volunteer Fire Department.

**SYNOPSIS:** Clarifies the requirement that each fire department chief's signature is required in order to vote proxy for that department.

#### Change 4.

To create in Section 7:

3(h) To establish an absentee ballot for those departments who

choose not to attend or send their votes by a person from their county via proxy vote to the annual AAVFD Conference. The ballot would be created and standards established by the AAVFD Board of Directors. The AAVFD Secretary would mail out an absentee ballot to any member department whose department head (Chief or President) requests an absentee ballot. The ballot would be filled out by the requester, signed and mailed back to the AAVFD office. The ballot would remain at the AAVFD office unopened until election day. At this time, the ballots would be brought to the AAVFD Conference by the secretary and opened at the time of the election by the tabulating committee. The votes would be tabulated as indicated on the ballot.

**SYNOPSIS:** The purpose of this is to establish an alternative means of voting by proxy. Only items or nominations coming from the floor could not be voted on by absentee ballot.

#### Change 5.

Currently reads:

#### SECTION 15. AMENDMENT

(1) All proposed amendments to the By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, in writing, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments, in writing, to all voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by 2/3 majority of the votes cast by those members present and members represented by proxy, in good standing, to become effective. Voting shall be by secret ballot. The results of any balloting shall tabulate by a three (3)-person committee appointed by the President. The results shall be reported to the Secretary for recording and the ballots remanded to his/her safe keeping for sixty (60)-days.

Amend to read:

(1) All proposed amendments to the By-Laws will be submitted to the President, in writing, sixty (60)-days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments, in writing, to all voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast by those members present and those members represented by proxy, in good standing, to become effective. Voting shall be by secret ballot. The results of any balloting shall be tabulated by a five (5)-person committee appointed by the President. The results shall be reported to the Secretary for recording and the ballots remanded to his/her safe keeping until the annual meeting.

**SYNOPSIS:** This will allow the proposed amendments to be published in the newsletter without delaying the newsletter publishing date.



# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Firefighter William F. Ramsey, Volunteer  
Department: Connellsville Township VFD, Connellsville PA  
Date of Death: 9/9/03  
Cause of Death: Died of Apparent heart attack after returning to station from an alarm.

Name/Rank: Asst Chief Harry Zilkan, Volunteer  
Department: Newberry Springs FD, Newberry Springs CA  
Date of Death: 9/10/03  
Cause of Death: Suffered major heart attack while directing fire attack at residential structure, leaving him only 20% functionality. A year later, a heart transplant was performed, and Zilkan was able to return to limited duties. Recently, the transplanted organ began to fail leading to his death.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Officer William Wheeler, Volunteer  
Department: Saxton VFD, Saxton PA  
Date of Death: 9/20/03  
Cause of Death: Died in single car accident while responding to another vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter James J. O'Shea, Career  
Department: FDNY, Brooklyn NY  
Date of Death: 9/27/03  
Cause of Death: Suffered fatal heart attack at home after fighting fire in Queens shortly before his tour of duty ended.

Name/Rank: Chief Jon Bill Luttmann, Volunteer  
Department: Redkey VFD, Redkey IN  
Date of Death: 9/27/03  
Cause of Death: Complained of Flu-like symptoms while participating in department fund raising event, Chief Luttmann drove himself to hospital where he had a heart attack and passed away.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Gerald Hayswood Williams, Volunteer  
Department: Cool Springs VFD, Statesville NC  
Date of Death: 9/30/03  
Cause of Death: After participating in strenuous hose training the night before, suffered fatal heart attack during early morning hours while sleeping at fire station.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Kenneth Jutte, Volunteer  
Name/Rank: Firefighter John Garman, Volunteer  
Department: New Bremen German Township FD, New Bremen OH  
Date of Death: 10/1/03  
Cause of Death: Killed in explosion while hosing down dust in a lumber company silo in effort to avoid an explosion.

Name/Rank: Pilot Carl Dolbeare, Career  
Name/Rank: Co-Pilot John Attardo, Career  
Department: Minden Air Corp, Minden NV  
Date of Death: 10/3/03  
Cause of Death: Killed when their twin-engine P2-V air tanker crashed near Redlands CA due to a cause to be determined.

Name/Rank: Firefighter James Allen, Career  
Department: Philadelphia FD, Philadelphia PA  
Date of Death: 10/7/03  
Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while ventilating roof of two-story structural fire.

Name/Rank: Asst Chief James Richards, Volunteer  
Department: Oran FC, Oran IA  
Date of Death: 10/21/03  
Cause of Death: Died of heart attack while fighting grass fire in rural Bremer County.

Name/Rank: Asst Chief Don Billig, Volunteer  
Department: St Cloud FD, Volunteer Division, St Cloud MN  
Date of Death: 10/27/03  
Cause of Death: While investigating report of smoking generator at

roadside construction site, Asst Chief Billig was replacing barricade blocking construction zone when a pickup truck struck his crew's truck; then, struck Billig killing him.

Name/Rank: Engineer Steve Rucker, Career  
Department: Novato Fire Protection District, Novato CA  
Date of Death: 10/29/03  
Cause of Death: Died from injuries received, and two members of his crew operating on Cedar fire in San Diego County CA were injured, when their position was overrun by fire.

Name/Rank: Chief Roy Prouty, Volunteer  
Department: Country Lakes Fire Company, Browns Mills, NJ  
Date of Death: 10/30/03  
Cause of Death: Collapsed of apparent heart attack while setting up landing zone for a medical helicopter evacuation at a vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Lt. Barry M. Bennett, Career  
Department: Cambridge FD, Cambridge MA  
Date of Death: 11/2/03  
Cause of Death: Succumbed to Hepatitis-C, which was contracted through an inadvertent puncture by a needle while rendering assistance at a medical emergency on October 15, 1987.

Name/Rank: President Darrell Michael, Volunteer  
Department: Russell Fire Company, Russell PA  
Date of Death: 11/3/03  
Cause of Death: Died from head injury after falling from ladder while on standby at station.

Name/Rank: District Chief Ricardo A. Gonzales, Career  
Department: Beaumont FD, Beaumont TX  
Date of Death: 11/5/03  
Cause of Death: Died from cardiac and respiratory arrest after performing duties at fire scene and fire station.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Officer George Petrosky, Volunteer  
Department: Matawan Borough FD, Matawan NJ  
Date of Death: 11/8/03  
Cause of Death: Succumbed to injuries suffered in the line of duty on 9/30/03 while directing traffic at a vehicle accident when he passed out due to cardiac arrhythmia striking his head on the pavement.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Matthew Karl Brimer, Volunteer  
Department: Weaver VFD, Weaver AL  
Date of Death: 11/8/03  
Cause of Death: Died in vehicle accident (POV) en-route to reported structure fire.

Name/Rank: Chief Lawrence J. Yonkin, Volunteer  
Department: Forest View-Gang Mills FD, Painted Post, NY  
Date of Death: 11/15/03  
Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack after returning home from a civilian casualty house fire response.

Name/Rank: Paramedic/Firefighter Richard J. Tiffany, Career  
Department: Clark County Fire District # 12  
Date of Death: 11/17/03  
Cause of Death: Died of Cardiac arrest while participating in physical fitness activity at fire station.

Name/Rank: Captain Gary Boyert, Career  
Department: Kansas City Kansas FD, Kansas City KS  
Date of Death: 11/17/03  
Cause of Death: Died from injuries received when fire department vehicle crashed on rain-slick street, striking a utility pole while responding to false alarm.

# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

(CONTINUED)

Name/Rank: Firefighter Jeffrey A. Tiegs, Volunteer  
Department: Amherst Fire District, Amherst WI  
Date of Death: 11/24/03  
Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from cardiac arrest when dismounting from fire engine he had driven to scene of minor traffic accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Martin H. McNamara, Volunteer  
Department: Lancaster FD, Lancaster MA  
Date of Death: 11/29/03  
Cause of Death: Died after becoming trapped in basement while engaged in fire suppression duties following at least two reported explosions in the wood-frame structure.

Name/Rank: Engineer Mark Tyler Franklin, Career  
Department: Charlotte FD, Charlotte NC  
Date of Death: 11/30/03  
Cause of Death: Died from pulmonary embolism suffered as result of knee surgery for injury incurred while on duty at structural fire in April 2003.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Lt. Thomas W. Diorio, Volunteer  
Department: West Whiteland Fire Company, Exton PA  
Date of Death: 11/30/03  
Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from apparent cardiac arrest while directing traffic at scene of townhouse fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Nadar Hammett, Career  
Department: Prince George's County Fire/EMS Dept, Largo MD  
Date of Death: 12/1/03  
Cause of Death: Died in vehicle accident returning home from required department paramedic class.

Name/Rank: Captain Wayne Dillon, Volunteer  
Department: Washington Parish Fire District, Mt Herman LA  
Date of Death: 12/3/03  
Cause of Death: Died when tanker overturned while participating in driver training exercise.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Todd "Bubba" Dicks, Volunteer  
Department: Warsaw VFD, Warsaw IL  
Date of Death: 12/3/03  
Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while responding to a multiple vehicle traffic accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/Training Officer Ronald W. Fitzpatrick, Volunteer  
Department: Long Branch FD, Long Branch NJ  
Date of Death: 12/6/03  
Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack while working fire in abandoned commercial building.

Name/Rank: Firefighter George Wohl, Volunteer  
Department: Congers FD, Congers NY  
Date of Death: 12/13/03  
Cause of Death: Died of head and neck injuries sustained when he fell from ladder responding to a fire alert.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Thomas Christopher Brick, Career  
Department: FDNY (Ladder Company 36), Brooklyn NY  
Date of Death: 12/16/03  
Cause of Death: Died while conducting search and rescue operations at a four-alarm blaze in a furniture/mattress storage warehouse.

## WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY ON-LINE STUDY COURSE AVAILABLE

For those that can't attend the Wildland Fire Academy to take a wild land urban interface course but need training in these type of operations, the National Fire Academy will soon offer an 8 hour self study course on line. The Jeff/Shelby WUI assisted in the development of this course and the NFA is now taking on-line applications. The course is free. Please consider making this course part of your training program.

This 8-hour self-study course provides basic information to enable

the structural firefighter to participate in safe and effective operations during a Wildland/Urban Interface incident. This training program is a joint effort of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and the National Fire Programs Division of the US Fire Administration, designed to identify many of the operational activities and safety concerns for the structural firefighter in the interface. Course content includes wild land fire behavior, safety issues, and operational tasks.

*The Family of Marty Franklin wishes to thank AAVFD South Honor Guard members James Chancey, Sue Starr, Mary Sells, Daniel Day, and James Stabler who were there to help comfort us in our time of need. We also extend a thank you to Wallace VFD members Alan, David, Pansy and Albert Morris and Frisco City firefighter Debra Turberville who also assisted in the service honoring their fellow firefighter.*

*The Family of Marty Franklin  
Wallace VFD, Escambia County*



Myrtlewood Volunteer Fire Department, Marengo County, takes delivery of a 1980 Brigadier/Pierce Pumper.

# Electing Volunteer Fire Officers

Jason Zigmont (Jason@volunteerfd.org)

While researching this topic, I found that there were more options for election and requirements than I would ever have believed. Therefore, I will try to take a broad look at the issue, but will focus on fire fighting offices only.

How do we make sure that the right person is chosen for the right position?

The one common denominator in all election or appointment procedures is some type of minimum requirements. These requirements commonly include meetings, drills, calls, years in service, and/or certifications. Some may say that minimum requirements aren't needed, as the best person will always win. Those of us who have been in the service for a while know that it is actually often the most popular, rather than the best qualified who wins.

So what requirements are fair? The answer varies by department, the number of members, number of calls, and duties of the officer. Minimally, the officers should be held to the same standards as any "active" firefighter. Ideally, they should be setting an example and be held to a higher standard. To require attendance at half of the monthly drills/meetings is reasonable. (Exemptions can be made for extreme circumstances, but need to be the same for everyone.)

Requiring a minimum call attendance is nice also. After all, the primary duty of a fire officer is to respond to fires. The hard part is to require a percentage of the overall calls, since we all have work and family obligations. One option is to require a minimum of responses during a member's "available" time. This system tracks that a member may be unavailable from 0600-1800 due to work, or whatever time frame, and therefore does not penalize them for not coming during this time. The hard part is tracking availability. Luckily, most computer NFIRS reporting systems track availability and can report percentages easily.

Most departments have some time of minimum years of service requirement. After all, would you want your new probie getting elected Chief? But a year of time for someone coming to 30% of the calls is different than a year of a member coming to 70% of the calls. Two years seems to be a common minimum before someone can run or be appointed to an office. Many departments also have a sliding scale of year requirements. (i.e. Lieutenant 2 years, Captain 5, Chief 7). Some

departments allow credit for years of service in other departments, sometimes prorated at a 2:1 basis (or more).

Controversy begins when you start requiring minimum years of service in rank, before progressing to the next rank (i.e. 2 years as Assistant Chief before becoming Chief). While this concept looks good in principle, when you have a limited number of positions, you may end up with only one candidate. An alternative is to require a minimum amount of years as a "junior officer" (Lieutenant, Foreman, Captain) before running for a Chief officer position.

Even more controversy begins when you start requiring minimum certification levels. (Enter the dinosaur vs robot battles!) It would be nice if every officer had every certification available, but we need to be realistic. Minimally an officer should have the same required certifications as the firefighters underneath them. Ideally, they should have more knowledge than their firefighters. Of course, certifications are just a piece of paper and will never make up for "on the job" training. To account for years of experience, you might try requiring a certification or having been active in the fire service before xyz date (i.e. Firefighter II or have been active before January 1, 1986).

The Presidential Lakes Fire and Rescue Squad submitted their by-laws to VolunteerFD.org and have some good minimum requirements. They require 30 % of all calls, 75 % of all company meetings and 50 % of scheduled drills. An interesting point of their by-laws is that after seven years, a member can become an "exempt member". This lowers the requirements to 15 % of calls, 50 % of meetings and 25 % of drills.

Once you have set your minimums, the next question is how to elect, appoint, or nominate your officers. Each department does things slightly different.

Both elections and appointments can lead to a department's officers consisting of the "old boys club" and being a popular vote. One member of the VolunteerFD.org website wrote me about the situation at his department. The bottom line of his message was that after the incumbent chief lost one year, the following year he brought in all his old friends, who were "life members" and stacked the vote to get back in. While you can never get around popularity contests, sometimes there are ways to add to the minimums

and raise the bar.

One option is to have a nominations committee. This committee can meet with potential candidates before your election to determine the candidates reasoning and eligibility to run for office. The committee can then report its findings and recommendations at the election. By having an investigation process and recommendation, you are less likely to get officers who are doing it on a whim or because of their popularity.

The Snelling Volunteer Fire Department has a combination of elections and appointments. Their by-laws state: "Officers, not appointed by the town, are the elective officers. They are elected for an indefinite term. When a vacancy exists, any member with 5 years experience, or any member that is felt to be qualified, may be nominated with a second. Then all nominations are in, a secret ballot will be taken, and a simple majority shall elect. This may be done at any meeting having 10 members present that are eligible to vote."

I find SVFD's by-laws interesting as some of their officers are appointed by the town, while some are elected. Also, they have indefinite terms and require 5 years experience or "any member that is felt to be qualified". While I could not find any reference to what "qualified" means, I would be interested to find out how that decision is made in their department.

On the other side, the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department has term limits for their President and Chief. "Term limits will be imposed on the president and chief. These officers can only serve for two consecutive terms before stepping down for one year. These are very demanding offices. Limits will keep members from burning out and will keep the department running smoothly."

Term limits are an interesting idea, and I can see their point. While I do not agree with indefinite terms, a Chief Officer needs to have at least 2-3 years to make any long-term changes.

As you can see, there are many facets to the selection of officers. What works in your area may not work in others, and vice versa. Just remember to think through the requirements you place and make sure they are for the good of the company, rather than one specific individual.



## CLASSIFIED ADS



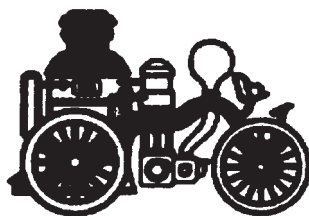
**FOR SALE:** 1963 Mack C-95, low mileage, 1000 gpm pump, 500 tank, gas engine and 5 speed transmission. \$10,000.00 OBO. Has some equipment on it. Contact: Pine Level Fire Department, Mark Caffey @ 334-358-0202.

**FOR SALE:** 1963 Ford Pumper, with gasoline engine and 750-gallon main tank. Asking \$2,000 or best offer. Call 205-372-4822 before 9:00 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 10 sets of yellow turnout gear. Includes everything (pants, coat, helmet, boots, gloves, etc.). All sets are in good to like-new condition. Would like to sell all in one group, if possible. Asking \$500 per set. Contact Chief Eddie Snow @ 251-862-2704 or e-mail ghsnow@frontiernet.net.

**FOR SALE:** 1977 FC-600 Ford Heavy-Duty Pumper, 750 GPM Front-Mounted Pump, 750 Gallon Tank. Asking \$18,000. Contact Chief Eddie Siebert, Garden City VFD @ 256-352-5743.

**FOR SALE:** 1982 2 1/2 ton Chevy tanker fire truck with 1800 gal baffled tank, 250 GPM pump, dump valve, drop tank, booster reel, lights and siren. Asking \$7,000. Contact 334-271-1048.



## THE BELL TOLLED

**Asst Chief Lowery Chandler, Pine Ridge VFD, DeKalb County, passed away February 1, 2004.**

**Jim Shortridge, White House Fork VFD, Baldwin County, passed away February 29, 2004.**

**Captain Nathan Hicks and Firefighter James Lambert, Pisgah VFD, Jackson County, died in an automobile accident on March 1, 2004.**

**Marty Franklin, Wallace VFD, Escambia County, passed away on March 2, 2004.**

**Firefighter/EMT Medic Richard Ferguson, Enterprise VFD, Chilton County, passed away March 6, 2004.**

**Ozzle H. "Jimmy" Walker, Berlin VFD, Cullman County, passed away March 12, 2004. He was a charter member of the department.**

**D. R. Enos, Retired Chief of Hebron VFD, Marshall County, passed away March 19, 2004 as a result of a traffic accident two weeks prior. D. R. was actively involved in the County Volunteer Fire Association and was also a Life Member of AAVFD.**

**Robert Lee Smith, West Shelby VFD, Shelby County, died in the Line of Duty while fighting a brush fire on March 21, 2004.**

**Chief J. Lewis McClain, Pigeon Creek VFD, Butler County, passed away on March 21, 2004.**

**I**f 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. Johnny Dennis – (256) 766-4707 or Dave Davis (334) 366-4490; or Clayton Cobb, Sr. (251) 578-2855; or Don Shield (256) 776-9760.

**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](http://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.

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