



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

January - April, 2019

42nd Annual Conference **Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments**

The 2019 AAVFD annual conference is being hosted by Conecuh County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. Join us on July 19-20, 2019 in Evergreen, Alabama. All events will be held on the campus of Hillcrest High School. (1989 Jaguar Road Evergreen, Alabama)

The conference offers exhibits, expos, fire education programs and networking opportunities with fellow emergency service leaders from across the state. The conference features dozens of exhibitors displaying the latest public safety products and services for fire departments.

The conference will open Friday with registration, vendor exhibits and the annual evening cookout featuring Miss Charity Bowden. Charity was on Season 11 of the Voice on Team Miley. She has opened for the Charlie Daniels Band, Confederate Railroad, David Ball, John Schneider just to name a few. Not only is she beautiful, she is talented! Saturday morning opens with firefighter competition, vendor exhibits, business meeting, board elections and the awards banquet.

Registration for the conference is open! This year we are hosting State Fire Marshal, Scott Pilgreen and Secretary of State John Merrill, as the keynote speakers at the Saturday night banquet.

Conference Chairmen:

John Powell
(251) 227-2865

Paul Matthews
(251) 607-8826

Lonnie Grace
(251) 236-2307

Conference Registration form included on page 4 in this issue of The Volunteer

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY

Greetings Fellow firefighters:

I hope this finds you all doing well and enjoying our spring weather here in Alabama. It is always good to see the season change this time of year. Being able to say goodbye to the colder wet weather of winter and get outdoors again tends to lift our spirits in many ways. Please think about looking at this as an opportunity to get out and train on those areas that have been set aside during inclement weather. It's difficult and usually impossible to lay hose and raise ladders inside a building so I encourage you to take this opportunity to catch-up on those types of drills.

On April 3, 2019, several of your board members and fellow volunteer firefighters from across the state met me in Montgomery at the State House. The purpose of this gathering was to attempt to garner support for a tax credit bill for you. I am pleased with the responses we received from both our Representatives and Senators. I believe we made great strides this year with getting the word out on how much each of you do for the citizens of this state. Do I believe this bill will pass as written this year? To be honest, I think it is a long shot but again I feel we have started a good conversation with the legislators and have laid a solid foundation that will someday, hopefully soon, allow this to become a reality. You should each take every opportunity you can to include your elected officials at your department events and get acquainted personally. This goes a long way in our efforts to assist you. I want to extend a special thank you to Mr. Steve Pegues for his assistance with this important legislation. He has worked tirelessly with us and without anything to gain for himself.

I have been working with the Alabama Fire College on obtaining a safety officer class available to volunteers who did not meet the prerequisites to attend the forty hour Incident Safety Officer Certification Course. I know that doing so can be cumbersome and impossible for most of you. However, I believe that safety on the fire ground should be an obtainable class for everyone. I am pleased to advise you that this goal has been achieved and the Safety Officer Awareness class will now be available to all members regardless of their training levels. This will be a sixteen hour certificate class and will be a great asset to all departments and members. Check with your regional coordinator. Please utilize this valuable resource. Thank you to the staff at the Alabama Fire College for making this possible.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the conference in Evergreen in July.

May God bless each of you and keep you safe!

Mike Green





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2019 Conference Pre-Registration

The 2019 Annual AAVFD Conference will be hosted by Conecuh County Association of Fire Department in Evergreen, Alabama on July 19th & 20th, 2019.

Registration will be \$25.00 per person. Please have turned in by July 1, 2019. Registration at the conference will be \$30.00.

All activities will be held at the Hillcrest High School, 1989 Jaguar Road, Evergreen, AL.
(Registration, vendor displays, Friday night cook-out and Saturday competition).

Competition events will be announced later!!

The Awards Banquet will be at Hillcrest High School on Saturday night.

Motel Information:

Host Motel: Sleep Inn 78 Liberty Hill Place, 1-251-578-9590 Room rates - \$89 a night

Overflow Motels: Quality Inn – 83 Ted Bates Rd., 1-251-578-4701 @ \$70.99 a night.

Econo-lodge Inn & Suites 215 Hwy 83, 251-578-2100, Non-Smoking King \$75 a night

Non-Smoking 2 Dbls \$80 a night

RV parking is also available, contact conference committee for information.

More overflow hotels will be announced later.

Any questions call: John Powell
(251) 227-2865

Paul Matthews
(251) 607-8826

Lonnie Grace
(251) 236-2307

2019 Conference Pre-Registration

Please make your check payable to: Conecuh County Conference

Mail to: Conecuh County Conference
John Powell, Chairman
2302 Hwy 83
Evergreen, AL 36401

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ people.

Fire Department name _____

Please PRINT name of everyone _____



Gene Necklaus
Chief, Scottsboro Fire Dept.
President, Alabama Assoc. of Fire Chiefs



**Alabama
Association
of Fire Chiefs**

“ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL”

Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill is famously attributed the phrase, “All politics is local.” I was reminded of this saying earlier this month in Montgomery as several of Alabama’s fire service, including some of your AAVFD leadership, met with Secretary of State John Merrill. Secretary Merrill spoke to the untapped political power of the Volunteer Fire service.

Few groups in any community are as respected and admired as the local fire department. And most of us do what we do not for personal gain or influence, but only for the desire to simply help our neighbors. In fact, we often look down on those who seek fame or good fortune for their work in public service. Humility is a virtue that we take pride in, and maybe sometimes to a fault.

The estimates I’ve seen say that nearly 80% of Alabama is protected by Volunteer Fire Departments and those departments have around a 6 billion dollar positive impact on those communities through insurance and salary savings alone. That translates to you being directly tied to a massive financial savings for the constituents of about 28 Senators and 84 Representatives.

One of the biggest flaws of the fire service is we do a poor job of promoting what we do and the impact that we have. We are careful not to toot our own horns, and in my opinion that is why we often get the short end of the stick. I encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful things

you provide and the influence that comes with it, not for personal gains, but certainly for the benefit of the entire fire service. Share your success stories with your community, involve your local elected officials (especially your Senators and Representatives) in your department functions, invite them to every department, district, or county meeting and engage with them every time you have the opportunity.

Your AAVFD officers do a great job of being present at the statehouse and working on things to improve the fire service, but they can’t do it alone. Alabama’s fire service could easily be the largest lobbying voice in the state when it comes to issues that affect public safety and our working conditions. This doesn’t mean you have to travel to Montgomery, it just means that you can build vital relationships with your 2 or 3 representatives and help them realize the value we bring to the public. I’ve been lucky (and sometimes unlucky) to be involved in a few efforts in Montgomery. I can say for certain, when a Representative gets calls or texts from back home, they pay attention - especially when it’s from someone they have a relationship with.

There is strength in numbers. Your AAVFD is making a difference and I’m proud that the Fire Chiefs are able to help anywhere we can. I can hardly imagine the impact if we could see the 25-some odd thousand volunteer and career, firefighters and fire chiefs, all working in unison.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMISSION

From the Desk of Matt Russell, Executive Director

Alabama Mutual Aid System Response to the Lee County Tornadoes

The Alabama Mutual Aid System began in 2003 in response to 9/11 and was modeled after the State of California's mutual aid response system. Alabama is divided into seven Divisions and has 44 special operations teams consisting of heavy, medium, and light rescues, hazardous materials teams, water rescue teams, urban search and rescue (Mobile), one state mortuary team, and one incident management team (Alabama Fire College is the host agency). The State EMA has tasked each Division with developing minimum capabilities including heavy rescue, water rescue, and hazardous materials teams. A portion of the funding for these teams comes from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and is designed to build resilience in response to man-made and natural disasters. Like most federal grants aimed at first responders the funding was greatest after 9/11 and has continued to dwindle since 2003.

On March 3, 2019 two tornadoes tore through Lee County killing 23 civilians, destroying hundreds of homes, and disrupting thousands of lives. The Lee County tornado stayed on the ground for more than 26 miles in Alabama leaving a path of destruction nearly a mile wide in some places. Immediately afterward firefighters from Beauregard, Farmville, Smiths Station, Beulah, Plainview, Salem, Southwest Lee County, Auburn, and Opelika descended on the area to search for victims and provide comfort to their neighbors. These emergency responders had a singular focus and were determined to do whatever necessary to remedy the situation. Rural folks don't typically depend on external forces to solve their problems; they're industrious, resilient, and smart. They depend on each other, that's who they are and that's what they do.

On March 4, Lee County requested additional assistance triggering the activation of the Alabama Mutual Aid System. Members of the State of Alabama All Hazards Incident Management Team responded to Lee County to assist with coordination and facilitation of the search and rescue effort. Even though 23 victims had been found the previous day

there were still nearly 50 people who were still unaccounted for. Local, state, and federal law enforcement were tasked with investigating the whereabouts of those still missing, while search teams from every surrounding department partnered with Alabama Association of Rescue Squad canine assets to conduct secondary and tertiary searches in all four Divisions in the Beauregard Branch. At 1630 on Tuesday, March 5 law enforcement officials declared all those that had been missing were accounted for. With a collective sigh of relief command contacted Lee County EMA and officially transitioned from a rescue operation to a recovery operation.

Once the life safety aspect had been satisfied it was time to begin meeting the needs of the survivors. On Wednesday, March 6, Ken Busby with Lee County GIS created a dashboard in *Survey 123 for ArcGIS* which allowed emergency response personnel to collect real-time needs and damage assessment information from residents. Teams from Prattville, Montgomery, Birmingham, Hoover, Vestavia, Mobile, Auburn, and Opelika went door to door to electronically collect data on an app on their cell phones. This information was immediately relayed back to the dashboards in Lee County EMA and on a projector screen in the Beauregard Branch command post. The value of this real-time information was immediately realized when one of the teams identified a diabetic patient who was out of Metformin and resources were dispatched to aid the patient. In total, teams identified 201 structures/residents who needed some form of assistance. Information the teams collected was downloaded into a spreadsheet and provided the foundation of work assignments for the following days.

The volunteer and career emergency responders in Lee County performed as well as any could. In light of the scope and magnitude of this incident and the fact that they found all 23 victims in the first



Continued on next page - Fire College

AAVFD Officers and Board Member Elections

During the annual business meeting on Saturday, July 20, 2019, elections will be held to fill officer and board member positions. The Nominating Committee has made the following recommendations:

President - Mike W. Green (I)
Vice-President South - Joey Moffett (I)
Vice-President Central - Dan Hopkins (I)
Vice-President North - Derrick Gatlin (I)
Secretary - Mary Sells (I)
Treasurer - Joe Golden (I)

Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are permitted by the AAVFD by-laws. All candidates, except those presented by the nominating committee, must be present at the annual business meeting. All six offices are

elected by majority vote of the members in attendance and those members represented by proxy.

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 different geographical areas within the districts. 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.

Candidates' fire service biographies are provided in this issue.

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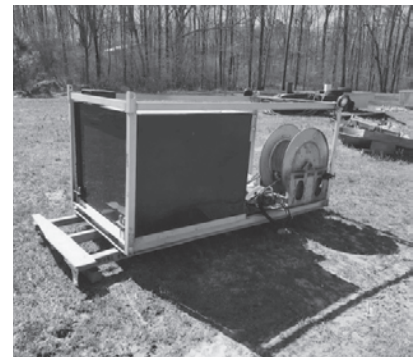
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Continued from page 6 - Fire College

few hours, to me, is astonishing. Their effectiveness and efficiency are to be admired; their Herculean effort is to be revered. On behalf of the Alabama Fire College, Personnel Standards and Education Commission, and the State Incident Management Team we thank Lee County EMA, the State EMA, and

the local responders for the opportunity to serve alongside these fantastic people, the chance to play a minor role in mitigation and recovery of this incident, and for the privilege of making some new friends.

2019 Firefighter of the Year & The Sherry Garner Memorial Award Nominations

The purpose of these awards is to recognize a present member of a volunteer fire department who has served his/her department, community and state above and beyond normal expectations during his/her service as a volunteer firefighter in the year since the previous award.

Candidates should demonstrate commitment to their department and community and have contributed in a positive manner to the enrichment of their fire department and community they represent.

To be eligible for these nominations, a person should be a current member of a volunteer fire department in the state of Alabama. All nominations should include accomplishments, length of service, extra

ordinary services in the line of duty such as saving a life, removing someone from a burning building, car, etc. and other related pertinent information. All nominations must be signed by the fire chief and one other officer of the department or two members of the Board of Directors if a chief is nominated.

Nominations must be received no later than June 3, 2019 in the AAVFD office (660 Adams Ave. Suite 345 Montgomery, AL 36104). The annual awards will be presented during the AAVFD Annual Conference Banquet on July 20, 2019 in Evergreen, Alabama.

If you have any questions regarding the Firefighter of the Year or the Sherry Garner Memorial Award, please contact the office at (334) 262-2833.

Alabama Firefighter Competition 2019

The 2019 firefighter competition is now open for registration. This annual event features outstanding firefighters showcasing their skills against other firefighters from around the state.

Firefighter competition is designed to test competitors in life-like situations.

The competition will be set up at Hillcrest High School and will feature three events that must be completed while wearing firefighter gear.

This year's event will include obstacle course, hose lay 1 and bucket brigade.



The firefighter competition gives firefighters a chance to demonstrate their abilities to the public and encourages cooperation between departments throughout the state. Firefighters have a lot of fun and a lot of camaraderie with other firefighters throughout the state.

Don't miss this exciting challenge that is a conference favorite!

Competition Chair, Joey Boyd, is looking forward to facilitating an amazing event this year for Alabama firefighters from around the state to come together to perform, have fun and network in a spirit of brotherhood. If you have any questions, please contact Joey at (256) 497-8505.

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**2006 Pierce Contender
Heavy Rescue**
Cummins Diesel
Generator



**2005 Ferrara Igniter
Rescue Pumper**
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**2011 Ford F-650
Quick Attack**
CET 210 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
CAFS System



**2002 Saulsbury
Freightliner Rescue
Pumper Tanker**
Hale 2250 GPM Pump
2500 Gallon Tank



**1998 E-One Cyclone
75' Aerial**
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**2002 Amercian LaFrance
75' Quint**
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



2006 KME Heavy Rescue
Seating for 8
Light Tower
Low Miles



2001 E-One 75' Quint
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**1997 E-One
International Pumper**
Hale 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2004 Pierce
Kenworth Pumper**
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



2001 Seagrave 105' Tower
Waterous 2000 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**2005 Seagrave
Rescue Pumper**
Seagrave 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2001 Pierce
International Pumper**
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2005 Rosenbauer
Spartan Pumper**
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



**2013 Ferrara International
Pumper Tanker**
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
1250 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2001 Pierce Dash
100' Platform**
Waterous 2000 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2000 E-One
International Pumper**
Hale 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



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August 1-4th, 2019

NFPA 1006 Certification Exam on 5th

Certification Students: Register with Alabama Fire College (800) 241-2467

Non-Certs can register directly at: www.hcru.org/rescueclass

web: www.hcru.org

phone: (256)509-4785

email: info@hcru.org



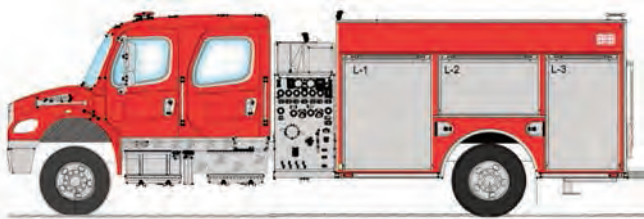
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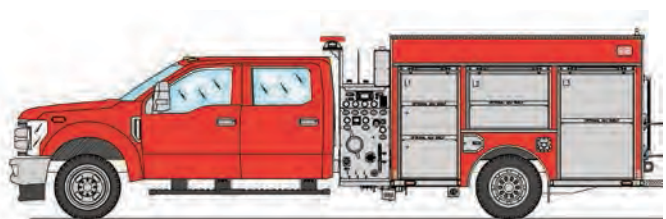
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- Double-stack crosslays with (2) 1.5" swivel pre-connects
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- Enclosed ladder storage and rescue style compartments
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In Memory of Kenneth A. Whitlow

The Moulton Advertiser

Kenneth A. Whitlow, who was recently recognized as Alabama's longest serving fire chief, passed away on January 15, 2019 at the age of 79.

Whitlow, with his wife, Alma, was responsible for establishing the Caddo-Midway Volunteer Fire Department in 1972 (Lawrence County). The first meetings, which involved local residents, took place in the Whitlow's home of the same community around October 20, 1972. The Whitlow's were successful in recruiting volunteers and with the assistance of donations and grants, Caddo's first fire station was built.

Whitlow was elected as the first Caddo-Midway Fire Chief after the organization was formed. In forty-seven years, his position was never contested.



He was as dedicated and caring to his family as he was the community and fire department.

Whitlow received many awards and recognition for his efforts. Among those awards was the Floyd Campbell Award he received in 1999 as the fireman of the year. Whitlow also won the Lifetime Board Member Award for serving the Countywide Firefighters Association.

The Whitlow family is very grateful for the support shown during the funeral. They were honored by all the firefighters throughout the county, the AAVFD Honor Guard and the many departments who brought fire trucks from around the state to honor and celebrate his life.

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Randolph County Volunteer Firefighters Honored

The brave men and women of Randolph County were recognized at the Randolph County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (RCAVFD) Annual Appreciation Banquet on April 6, 2019. The annual event brings together firefighters and those that support them, to include; officials from local and state government, Forestry Commission personnel, 9-1-1 dispatchers, law enforcement officers, emergency medical responders (ground and air), and most importantly, their families.

This year's event, hosted by the Randolph County Rescue Squad, brought together approximately 175 men and women to share in honoring the county's best. Distinguished guests included Alabama State Senator Randy Price and his wife among many others. Featured speaker was Matt Russell, Executive Director of the Alabama Fire College.



Pictured (l-r): Matt Russell, Doug Skidmore, Chief Michael Goss, Chief Tracy Eason, Vickie Candler, Chief Danny McCord, Richard Geter, and Senator Randy Price

Randolph County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments President, and Chief of the Randolph County Rescue Squad, Douglas Kirk presided over the event to honor those that selflessly sacrifice their time to serve their community. Doug Skidmore and Richard Geter from Woodland VFD received coins from the Alabama Fire College for training course attendance.

Ms Vickie Candler from Morrison's Crossroads VFD was honored as the 2018 Firefighter of the Year. Chief Michael Goss was honored for his Outstanding Achievement/Leadership at Dickert VFD.

For his superior leadership in mentoring others, Chief Danny McCord, Morrison's Crossroads VFD, was presented with the Stewardship Award. Additionally, the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Chief Robert Tracy Eason, Bethel East VFD, for his over 47 years of service to his department and Randolph County.

The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. DeAnn Hollis

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FROM THE DESK OF ...



RICK OATES
STATE FORESTER



Things at the Alabama Forestry Commission are heating up, literally. The month of February saw 50 wildfires that burned 283 acres. In March, we experienced 253 fires that burned 3,700 acres. As odd as it may seem with all the rain we’ve had in the last several months, roughly one third of the state is in an ‘abnormally dry’ condition (indicated in yellow on the map below) or a ‘moderate drought’ (tan section of the map). I might point out that just because the southern half of the state is the driest, does not mean we aren’t having wildfires all across the state. In fact, the table to the right shows more than 50 percent of the wildfires in March occurred in our Northeast region.

Region	March Wildfire Acres	Percent
Northeast	1,958	53%
Northwest	409	11%
Southeast	698	19%
Southwest	626	17%

All of this means things are getting busy for us and we are, as always, depending on the volunteer fire departments across the state to help us respond to these fires. We are especially concerned about wildfires in the counties affected by Hurricane Michael, as well as the tornadoes in Lee, Macon, and Russell counties. Although these are relatively small parts of the state, there is a lot of debris on the ground from these storms. As it continues to dry out, the likelihood of large fires increases. Our firefighters will be vigilant in these areas, but we will be looking to the public and VFDs to let us know quickly when a situation occurs that requires our immediate response to prevent the fire from growing too large.

On the positive side, we just took possession of two new John Deere 550 tractors that will replace some very old-model tractors. These dozers will make our employees safer and more efficient when fighting fires. We also have two Caterpillar tractors coming in a few months. This is the beginning of what we hope will be a continuing trend of replacing old equipment. Governor Ivey included extra money in her proposed budget for this purpose, and we have every reason to believe the legislature will help us by retaining this funding in the budget they pass.



As always, we appreciate your support, and look forward to partnering with VFDs across the state as we continue to help keep Alabamians safe! Thanks for all you do.

Rick Oates
State Forester

In Memory of Roy L. Mott, Jr.

Roy L. Mott, Jr. passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2019. He was a special person. Mott was a loving husband, dedicated father, a loving grandfather.

He served as the Fire Chief of Thomasville Fire Department for 17 years from 1978 to 1993. Mott and his wife, Sandra Mott, ran a Radio Service in the City of Thomasville for 32 years. Some would say his plate was full, but he did so much more.

He was instrumental in helping form the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department along with many other departments across the State. Back in the early 1980's Roy, Wesley Cain, Billy Mims and Vern Craig were the Founding Fathers of the AAVFD. They traveled across this State talking with Fire Departments about the AAVFD and helping many Departments along the way.



He also was one of the founding fathers of the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute. He was instrumental in getting many Bills passed that benefitted Fire Departments across this State. Mott served as a Commissioner to the Alabama Fire College. He retired from the Alabama Forestry Commission after serving as Director of Communication and was instrumental in helping Volunteer Fire Departments get radio systems in their Counties.

Mott served on the Board of Directors of the AAVFD, as a Director of his District, a Vice President and President of the Association in his years of service to the AAVFD. The AAVFD Board bestowed the honor of a Life Time Member of the AAVFD to him. He was a voice of knowledge and wisdom to the AAVFD and he will be missed by many. We lost a Brother to the Fire Service but more than that, we lost a Dear Friend.

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Helwestern VFD – Clarke County

Helwestern Volunteer Fire Dept. was founded in April of 1982 and covers Helwestern, Allen & Suggsville and also provides assistance to Grove Hill & Antioch Fire Depts. The department was formed by several men in the community who saw a great need for fire protection.

The first fire station was constructed next door to Padgett Grocery located on Allen Road, south of Grove Hill. It was a small two bay station that consisted mostly of donated materials.

Our first fire truck was a converted military truck with a 2000 gallon tank and front mounted pump that was donated from the Forestry Commission. This was the department's only truck until 1987 when the 1953 GMC pumper was purchased.

In 1988, the county passed a fire tax to get better funding for the department. In the summer of 1989 a 1972 Ward Lafrance pumper was purchased, and the donated truck from forestry was converted into a tanker. In January of 1992, a "new" tanker was purchased from Deep SouthFire Trucks. This truck was a 1980 Ford L9000 with a 3000 gallon tank and the military truck was turned back in to forestry. Still operating out of the small 2 bay station, one of the department's trucks was housed in a barn. The station was renovated in the mid 90's. A meeting room and storage room were added at this time.



In 1997, the department purchased its first brand new truck. This truck was a 1998 international

EONE pumper from Sunbelt Fire. This truck remains our first out pumper today. The Ward Lafrance and GMC pumpers were retired and we were also able to improve our ISO rating a 7/9 with the purchase of the new truck.

In 2010, the members saw a need for a new station and the department purchased property across the road from the fire station to build a new station. In the fall of 2012, the department moved into the new station which consisted of 3 large truck bays, a large meeting room, fully furnished kitchen and large office and

storage area. In May 2016, the department was evaluated by ISO and through hard work and improvements throughout the years our fire rating was lowered to a 4/4x and remains that today.



In June 2016, the department purchased a 2011 Ford F250 and converted it into a brush truck. In mid-2017, department members started looking at replacing the 1980 tanker. In July 2018, a 2019 Deep South Tanker was purchased. The new truck is a 2019 Granite Mack chassis with a 3000 gallon tank and 1000gpm hale pump. This truck was delivered in December 2018 and the 1980 model tanker was retired.

Today, the department has 25 dedicated members, who strive to provide the best fire protection to Helwestern & surrounding communities.

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HAPPENINGS AROUND ALABAMA



On April 3, 2019, several members of the AAVFD from across the state gathered at the State House to meet with legislators and **Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth** to discuss legislation to assist the volunteer fire service in Alabama. AAVFD Vice President, **Derrick Gatlin**, and AAVFD President, **Mike Green**, were among the AAVFD members in attendance. **HB 284**, if passed, will provide a tax credit to volunteer firefighters

who are members of a certified volunteer fire department. A volunteer firefighter may receive a tax credit ranging from \$200.00 to \$600.00 per year based on certification level. Thank you, **Representative Ritchie Whorton**, for sponsoring this bill.

The **Red Hill Volunteer Fire Department** located in northeast Elmore County received notice of a new ISO Classification. The department's ISO rating has been changed from 6/9 to 5/9 effective March 2019. The new ISO rating was a great accomplishment as Red Hill VFD strives to provide the best service to the communities of Red Hill and Kent in Elmore County.

Joe Hadley Memorial Service



Honor guard members from around the state, including members from the AAVFD Honor Guard, assisted Perdido VFD and Bon Secour VFD in paying tribute to **Joe Hadley** during his funeral service on February 10, 2019.

Green Pond Fire & Rescue, Bibb County, named **Aaron Church** the 2018 Firefighter of the Year. Church has been a tremendous asset to the department. He was on more calls than any other member in 2018. Church graduated from the Alabama Fire College and is presently attending school to become a licensed EMT.



Aaron Church

New Union/Aurora VFD, Etowah County, named Assistant Chief **Sally McCormick** the 2018 Firefighter of the Year in December 2018.

On December 15, 2018, the **Red Hill VFD** hosted its Annual Christmas and Awards Dinner at the Red Hill Community Center. The department recognized three individuals for outstanding service (tenure awards) to the community.



Pictured left to right: **Marcie Moore**, Logistics (10 years); **Captain John Hudson** (10 years) & **Chief Charles Chambers** (10 years) Red Hill VFD

Leroy VFD, Washington County, held a vehicle extrication training class on March 16, 2019 with Alabama Fire College Instructor **Timmy Crager** conducting the class. Crager is the Fire Chief of Laton Hill VFD. Thirteen attendees from Clarke and Washington Counties participated in the training. Leroy VFD first responder, **Jason Armstrong**, was instrumental in setting up the training course.

Friendship VFD, Elmore County, held its appreciation dinner in December 2018. **Eddy Sayers** was named the 2018 Firefighter of the Year. Sayers is a great asset to the department and completed numerous trainings, certifications and answered numerous calls during 2018.



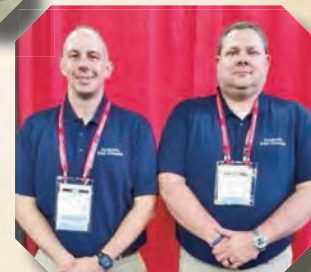
Pike Road VFD in Montgomery County named **Joel Cohen** Firefighter of the Year on March 30, 2019.

The **Fire Department Instructors Conference International** was held April 8-13, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were over 800 vendor exhibits. FDIC International is a one-of-a-kind experience, bringing together members of the fire service from around the world to exchange information, network, meet



up with old friends and meet new friends. AAVFD President/Alabama Fire College Commissioner **Mike Green** and Alabama Fire College Commissioner **Joey Darby** accompanied Alabama Fire College Director **Matt Russell**, **David Thornburg**, **Ardie Willis** and **Rick Gregg**. Other AAVFD members in attendance were Donnie Horton and David Rogers. It's an honor to have two AAVFD members receive recognition from the Alabama Fire College. **Donnie Horton**, member of North Montgomery VFD in Montgomery County, received the Student of the Year. **David Rogers**, member of the Tallassee VFD in Elmore County, received the Instructor of the Year.

Pictured Left to Right – David Rogers, Ardie Willis, Rick Gregg, David Thornburg, Mike Green, Matt Russell, Joey Darby and Donnie Horton



Pictured L-R Donnie Horton and David Rogers

Lillian VFD – Baldwin County Fire at The Pirate's Cantina Restaurant

The call came out at 2:20 Friday morning March 15th. Our first reaction was a possible false alarm as we are used to. Then on viewing further on the 'Active 911' we read "heavy smoke coming from Pirate's Cantina." An adrenaline rush ensued and we quickly got dressed and made our way to the fire department to retrieve the fire Engine and Tankers.

Lt. James Fletcher, who was one of first on scene, promptly advised smoke was billowing out the back of the restaurant. At this time, the smoke was so thick it was difficult for traffic to drive through on Hwy 98. As a joint effort between Chief Ellis and other fire departments, a decision was made to request the Sheriff Department for traffic control. In addition, the Tanker Task Force was put into action to start emergency water provision; this helped us get in position to work on the fire. The Tanker Task Force is relatively new to Baldwin Co. Last summer, LVFD and many volunteers from fire departments around the Baldwin area attended the task force to practice simulation of providing water in dump tanks for large fire disasters. Little did we know Lillian would be the first to put this practice into motion within six months.

As in any fire, mutual aid is triggered to all departments around the immediate vicinity: Perdido Beach, Elberta, and Josephine; however, because of the vastness of this fire, additional aid was requested from Escambia, Florida, Foley, and several other departments as far away as Daphne. In all we had approximately 19 apparatuses and 55 fire fighters. It didn't take long for the task force to set up water production and apparatuses to start water flow. Although everything was done in an efficient and speedy manner, it didn't take long for the black smoke to turn into a blazing fire. We attacked the fire from all sides of the building. Perdido Beach had their 'Tower 35 Truck' stationed at the South end of the building and constantly poured water on top of the building at 750 gallons per minute.

On the west side, the fire was so hot that we had to remove our apparatuses and fire fighters. We then noticed the wall of the Subway was getting too hot, so we soaked the wall to prevent it from catching on fire. It didn't take

us long to realize that we were not going to save the Pirate's Cantina. Because of the building materials and interior contents, it was easy for the fire to move quickly.

It was getting light and the building was now just a black structure with a few flames still shooting up in several areas. By approximately 9 a.m. all of the mutual aid had left and LVFD remained to flow water on hot spots. Several of the LVFD were stationed at the scene for over 15 hours keeping an eye on the building and securing the scene for safety reasons. From Saturday morning till 8:15 Tuesday morning, LVFD was still monitoring the fire and putting out hot spots with help from Perdido Beach's volunteers and their Tower Truck. Volunteers worked the scene in 6 hour shifts, 24 hours a day. Over the course of five days, 1.4 millions gallons of water was used.

Not only was this a tremendous task for our volunteer firefighters to take on, we are all very saddened at the loss of an icon in our little town, one which we all had the pleasure of patronizing. LVFD was extremely thankful for how our community came together and helped provide food and hydration during our ordeal. We all really appreciated the Lillian community spirit in our time of need.



Text Submitted by: Kelvin Lysek

THE BELL TOLLED

James T. Lee, age 82, passed away April 2, 2019. Lee was a Life Member and retired Fire Chief of the Toney VFD in Madison County. He served the fire department and community for fifty years serving as chief from 1994-1999. Lee was one of the founding members of the department. He was a great friend, mentor and advisor to the fire service.

Kimberly Ann Cantrell, age 50, passed away March 28, 2018. Cantrell was a former member of Brookside VFD in Jefferson County for several years. Her most favored accomplishment was completing the 160 course. She will be solely missed.

Allen Goree, age 65, passed away March 15, 2019 after a short battle with cancer. He was a member of the Verbena VFD in Chilton County. Goree had only been chief for just a few years but he was instrumental in making the department the best. He loved the Verbena community and will always be remembered for his service and devotion to his community.

Roy L. Mott Jr. passed away March 14, 2019. He was one of the founding fathers of the AAVFD, a life time member of the AAVFD, a voice of wisdom to the Association, former Fire Chief of the Thomasville VFD in Washington County and worked for the Alabama Forestry Commission. He will be greatly missed.

Earl Burks passed away on March 14, 2019. He was a retired Lifetime Member of the Grant Fire & Rescue in Marshall County, serving as Captain and Lieutenant in his career starting in 1954.

Harold Hill, Sr., age 79, passed away March 1, 2019 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Hill was a charter member of the Mountainboro VFD in Etowah County. He was instrumental in helping establish the fire department. Hill was currently serving in the Egypt VFD with some 53 years of service to the Etowah community. He loved serving his community by being an example of what firefighting is all about. He will be greatly missed.

Samuel Lee Finney, age 54, passed away February 28, 2019. Finney was the Assistant Chief of the Winn VFD in Clarke County. He was a certified NRA instructor and enjoyed shooting competitions, hunting and fishing.

Charlene Renfro, age 69, passed away on February 26, 2019. Renfro was the first female firefighter in Baldwin County with the Loxley VFD. She was a tee-ball coach in Loxley for many years. Renfro was a big part of the Loxley VFD for decades and a huge asset to the department. Renfro was a dispatcher for the Robertsedale Policy Department and promoted to chief dispatcher for many years. She was also a dispatcher for Baldwin County Sheriff's Department. Renfro was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary for Loxley VFD for the past six years.

William Lee, passed away on February 18, 2019 after an extended battle with cancer. He was a charter member of the Trinity VFD in Morgan County. Lee served his department and community for 50 years. He was a great asset to his department and will be greatly missed.

Joe Sonntag passed away on February 10, 2019. He served for more than 14 years as a member of Brundidge VFD in Pike County.

Lloyd Joseph Hadley passed away on February 5, 2019. He was a member of Perdido VFD in Baldwin County. His service included various positions on the Board of Directors, including President.

Dylon Reid Smitherman, age 18, passed away January 30, 2019. He was a member of the Craig VFD in Dallas County for the past year. Smitherman participated in the high school fire science courses and became a member when he turned 18. He had a big smile and was full of life. Smitherman will be greatly missed by the Craig VFD.

Kenneth Aldean Whitlow, age 79, passed away on January 15, 2019. Whitlow was the founder and he served as the fire chief of Caddo-Midway VFD in Lawrence County. He was the leader in bringing volunteer fire service to the county. Whitlow served as chief for 47 years, making him the longest serving fire chief in Alabama. He received numerous honors during his career. His dedication will be greatly missed.

Roger Fore passed away on January 7, 2019 after suffering a heart attack. Fore served as a Battalion Chief with the Coffeetown VFD in Clarke County. Fore spent 28 years with the fire department.

Don Graves, age 65, passed away on January 6, 2019 as a result of lengthy battle with cancer. Graves was a member of the Sand Valley VFD in Etowah County. He was an educator by profession and a regional director for the Boys Scouts of America. Graves spent all his adult life serving in the fire service in St. Claire and Etowah counties. He was a paramedic and instructed EMT classes at Gadsden State Community College for many years. Graves was a great asset to the fire service on many levels. He will be missed by many.

Don Montgomery passed away on January 1, 2019. Montgomery was an active member of the Underwood-Petersville VFD in Lauderdale County. Montgomery was a founding member of the Department and though he was over 80 years old he could still be found on the scene pulling fire hoses. He had a servants heart and was a great example for all.

Roy Henderson, age 80, passed away on December 26, 2018. Henderson was one of the founding members and first fire chief of the Walter VFD in Cullman County. He became a member in 1976 and remained a member until his passing. Henderson spent 42 years serving the VFD and was a great servant to his community. He was succeeded in the department by his son, Chief Randall Henderson. Henderson was active in the department until the last couple of years. He was very instrumental in the department and did so much behind the scenes.

Ken Burns passed away on December 27, 2018. He was a member of the Asbury VFD in Marshall County.

Michael David Smith passed away on October 10, 2018. He was a member of Zip City VFD in Lauderdale County.

Dan Hopkins

Candidate for Central Vice-President

My name is Dan Hopkins and I am a candidate for Central Vice-President. My fire service career began over twenty years ago and I have been serving as the fire chief of Hollis Crossroads VFD for the past seventeen years. I have attended many firefighter courses over the years and stress the importance of training and being prepared to all involved in the fire service.

I am a resident of Cleburne County. I am married to Stacy Hopkins and we have four children and seven grandchildren.

In 2011, I was elected as Central Vice-President of the AAVFD. It has been my privilege and honor to serve in this capacity. It is my pleasure to also serve on the Board of the Cleburne Hospital. In the past, I served five years as district 4 director. I am well respected among firefighters throughout this state for my professionalism and ability to build strong relationships.



It is my continued commitment to serve all fire departments throughout the state. Our fire service is changing rapidly and we are facing challenges like never before. I am committed to continuing to serve and believe we need to create new models and a different way of thinking about the delivery of fire and emergency services. My numerous years in the fire service, leadership skills and ability to work with all people will continue to assist in moving the AAVFD ahead.

As Central Vice-President, I am committed to promoting firefighter training as well as sharing and preserving the finest traditions of the AAVFD. I am devoted to the fire service and serving firefighters and volunteer fire departments throughout the state. I am proud to be a volunteer firefighter and would like to ask for your support and vote in this upcoming election.

Derrick Gatlin

Candidate for North Vice-President

My name is Derrick Gatlin and it has been my honor to have served as your AAVFD Northern Vice President for the past eight years. I presently serve as 1st Vice President. I appreciate all the support you've showed me over the last eight years. During our Annual Business



Meeting, we will elect officers for the 2019 year. I'm asking for your continued support and would like to thank you in advance.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your dedication and commitment to the fire service and the citizens of Alabama. I look forward to seeing you at the annual AAVFD Conference.

Joe Golden

Candidate for Treasurer

I would appreciate your support in my re-election to the office of AAVFD Treasurer. My wife and I have two daughters, Tara Goggins and Cari Golden. Tara is a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service at the Shelby County Airport office. Cari is a math teacher at West Point High School. My wife worked for the Cullman County Board of Education at Parkside Elementary School and is retired.

I worked for Nicholson File in Cullman, Alabama for over 35 years in accounting. The last 13 years I held the Executive Staff Controller position. I was responsible for all accounting activities at the Nicholson File Plant. The company closed its US



operations and moved to Mexico, Colombia and Brazil in late 2011. I am currently retired.

If elected this will be my sixth term as treasurer. I have previously held the positions of Alternate Director and Director for District 2. I served as the chief of the Baileyton Volunteer Fire Dept. for 17 years before stepping down. I am currently secretary of the department. I also serve as Co-Commander of the Cullman County Haz Mat Team, and President of the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. I hold several certifications through the Alabama Fire College.

I would appreciate your continued support for the office of Treasurer.

Mary Sells

Candidate for Secretary

I, Mary Sells, a twenty-eight year veteran of the fire service, am proud to be a volunteer firefighter and serve my community. I have dedicated my life to the volunteer fire service.

I have had the privilege of serving as Secretary for the AAVFD for the past seventeen years.

I am a long-time member (eighteen years) of the AAVFD Honor Guard and serve in the South Unit. It has been my honor to be a part of the outstanding group of honor guard members. In addition to serving the AAVFD, I am



the Assistant Chief of the McCullough VFD in Escambia County and have served in the capacity for the past twenty-eight years. I am standing on the frontline serving my community and the AAVFD with dedication, commitment and pride.

I have been nominated as a candidate for Secretary. I am committed to continuing my service in this position and serving volunteer fire departments throughout the state. I am dedicated to doing my best to serve the AAVFD and the individual firefighters along with the VFD in our great state. Your support in the upcoming elections in July would greatly be appreciated.

Joey Moffett

Candidate for South Vice-President

My name is Joey Moffett and I served in the position of Vice President for the South Region for the past two years. It is my honor to have been elected to this position and I thank all of you who elected me as I am very much enjoying the experience. Since 1981, I have been a volunteer fire fighter as a member of Roberts Volunteer Fire Dept. in Brewton, AL, and, as such, have developed a deep seated passion for the fire fighting life as well as a sincere respect and compassion for the volunteers of this state and the families that support them. The needs and the sacrifices made by our volunteers prompts me to be ever seeking more ways to improve our support of Alabama's volunteer fire fighters.

Over the years, I have acquired certification as an American Heart Association instructor, Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) Instructor, Alabama Fire College Certified Volunteer Fire Fighter, Instructor I and Mobile Live Fire Trainer Operator.

Since 2006, it has been my privilege to serve as the District 7 Alternate Director and designee for the



Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Depts. It was my honor also to serve as President of the Escambia County Association of Volunteer Fire Fighters from 2000 to 2011. Currently, I am also serving as the AFC District 7 President.

Being a native of Brewton, AL, I graduated from W.S. Neal High School in 1979 and then from Jefferson Davis Community College with a Degree in Computer Science. As a Computer Systems Specialist, I am currently employed by Frit Car, Inc., a railcar repair facility in Brewton, AL. My wonderful wife, Angela Tolbert Moffett, of Jay, Florida, is also a volunteer fire fighter. Together we have one amazing daughter, Crystal Dawn Moffett, who is currently studying to be a life flight nurse.

Your support to continue serving as Vice President for the South Region would be appreciated for the upcoming election taking place in Evergreen this July. I am truly dedicated to doing my best to serve this association and the individual fire fighters out there.

On a special note, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all you volunteers out there who give of your time and energy so freely. That is what makes our departments successful. Be safe!

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 the day or night: Mike W. Green (334) 309-5026, Derrick Gatlin (256) 998-0043, Dan Hopkins (256) 225-7230 or Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day (251) 267-2527. A copy of the booklet "Death In The Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or at www.aavfd.org.

About the Volunteer: *The Volunteer* is issued three times a year in January, May and September. Articles, information and advertisements for the newsletter must be submitted to the AAVFD office no later than the fifteenth of the month before publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections and font.

Other AAVFD Info: All membership information, insurance information, changes of addresses and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery Office.

AAVFD Officers:

President: Mike W. Green

1st VP: Derrick Gatlin

2nd VP: Dan Hopkins

3rd VP: Joey Moffett

Secretary: Mary Jane Sells

Treasurer: Joe Golden

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