



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

May - August, 2017

Firefighters Gather for Annual Conference

What a great turnout for the 40th annual AAVFD Conference! Firefighters from around the state of Alabama gathered in Tuscaloosa on July 28 & 29 for the 40th Annual AAVFD Firefighter Conference. The conference was hosted by District 3 which consists of Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter and Tuscaloosa. The event kicked off on Friday with the vendor displays, Alabama Forestry Commission class, AAVFD Board of directors meeting and cookout.

The Friday night cookout was sponsored by Roy Adamson of VFIS. We are grateful for your generosity and support. Thank you VFIS!

Saturday events included vendor displays, firefighter competition, annual business meeting and awards banquet. Firefighter of the Year was bestowed to Wesley Tidwell of Killen VFD. Sherry Garner Memorial Award was bestowed to Chief Wanda Andress of Wicksburg VFD. The 2017 President's Award was presented to Chief Timmy Crager of Laton Hill VFD. Congratulations to these well deserving individuals.

Firefighter competition was held on Saturday. Seven teams from around

the state competed for the top team trophy. Shout out to all the teams who traveled to participate and a special thank you to Competition Chair, Joey Boyd, and his volunteers for another exciting competition.

The AAVFD is honored to have so much support during the conference. A special thank you to the following for their leadership and commitment in making the conference a success: vendors, staff of the Alabama Fire College, AAVFD Auxiliary, and District 3 for hosting the event.

The AAVFD is blessed to have awesome supporters, volunteers, firefighters, auxiliary members, officers, honor guard members and district directors. Everyone is trained and fully involved in their volunteerism as fire professionals serving their communities throughout the state.

Save the date for next year's conference- July 13-14, 2018 in Florence, Alabama! The 41st conference is being hosted by Lauderdale County Association of VFD. Conference will be held at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa. We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 conference!

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings fellow firefighters:

BY

Mike Green

As always I am again honored and humbled that you have elected me to serve as your President for another year. Your continued confidence is very much appreciated and I promise to continue to serve and represent each of you to the best of my ability. The volunteer fire service has made great strides in the past several years but there is so much more that needs to be done. I am up to the challenge and welcome and solicit any ideas you have. This Association is your Association and I along with the other elected members are here to serve you! Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you need anything from us.

I would like to extend a well deserved thank you to the members of District III Firefighters Association for hosting another excellent conference in Tuscaloosa. You all are always willing to extend a welcome to our members and your dedication and commitment is to be commended.

In the near future you will receive your 2017-2018 membership package in the mail. These are due back in the office by October 1. Please remember to update your department's point of contact information when sending in your membership forms. We need current information in order to keep you abreast of issues affecting the VFD's in the state.

There were several by-law changes approved during the Annual Meeting. We are working on getting these changes incorporated into the by-laws and will hopefully have the updated version on the website in the near future.

Generosity is giving more than you can and pride is taking less than you need. I would like to personally thank each and every volunteer firefighter in this state for your generosity, pride and commitment. You serve with no expectation of something in return. You repeatedly place yourselves in harm's way to help your neighbors and total strangers. I salute you for your courage and selfless acts.



I will end with a quote I feel fitting to the fire service. "Do every day or two something for no other reason than you would rather not do it, so that when the hour of dire need draws nigh, it may find you not unnerved and untrained to stand the test." (William James)

May God bless and keep you safe at all times!
Mike W. Green



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NEWS FROM THE AAVFD AUXILIARY

The AAVFD Auxiliary is an organization of volunteers formally established in August 2012 to provide services to the AAVFD and promote and encourage auxiliaries throughout the state. The auxiliary promotes friendships, creates a family atmosphere and promotes civic welfare among all departments state-wide. Our current members are from various counties throughout the state.



AAVFD Auxiliary Members

The auxiliary is delighted to assist with door prizes each year during the conference. During the 2017 conference, it was our honor to sponsor a Sportsmanship Award. In addition to the trophy, the team received a \$100.00 donation. This award is given to the team who most exemplifies not only sportsmanship during the firefighter



DeKalb County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments
2017 Sportsmanship Award

competition, but a positive attitude, character and integrity during competition. We would like to congratulate DeKalb County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments for winning the first Sportsmanship Award!

The auxiliary is privileged to be honoring Alabama's volunteer fallen firefighter heroes. We will honor each firefighter killed in the line of duty by

purchasing a brick to be added each year at the Alabama Firefighter Memorial on the campus of the Alabama Fire College (AFC). Join us on October 7, 2017 at the AFC for the annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial at 3:00pm as a brick will be installed in memory of the volunteer firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty this year.

Like and follow us on Facebook – AAVFD Auxiliary!

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2017 FIREFIGHTER COMPETITION

Fulton VFD Captures Top Prize

Firefighters from across Alabama gathered in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and pitted their skills against one another. The annual event is held during the conference each year and fire departments compete for the best time in events such as air pack, hose lay and obstacle course. It is a physically demanding competition that displays the skills of the best fire departments and takes months of training to prepare.

Firefighter competition is a good time for departments to show off their skills. It was exciting to see some new teams join in the challenge this year. DeKalb County entered the competition for the first time this year. They said they enjoyed the competition but favors the camaraderie of the departments.



Carma Whisenant, Sandy & Joey Boyd

Joey Boyd is the competition chairman and coordinator of the competition events. He is already making plans for the 2018 firefighter competition. We look forward to seeing your team in Lauderdale County in 2018!

Air Pack

Fulton VFD
East Limestone VFD
Johnson Crossing VFD

Obstacle Course

Fulton VFD
Thomasville VFD
East Limestone VFD

Hose Lay

Thomasville VFD
East Limestone VFD
Johnson Crossing VFD

Top 3 Overall

Fulton VFD
East Limestone VFD
Thomasville VFD



East Limestone VFD



Fulton VFD



Johnson's Crossing VFD



Thomasville VFD

Wesley Tidwell Named Firefighter of the Year!

Wesley Tidwell is a second generation firefighter and joined the Killen Explorer Program (Lauderdale County) at the age of 15. In 2000, Wesley became a volunteer firefighter and has served the department since that time. He is described as an individual who serves with pride, dedication and passion. Tidwell has a love for the fire service and has the heart of a servant.



Tidwell holds 21 certifications through the Alabama Fire College which adds up to over 900 hours. He is also a leader of the Killen Dive Team. Tidwell is one of the top responders for his department and is always a team player. He received a commendation from Senator Tammy Irons for his role in saving a life during a structure fire call. Tidwell entered a structure with heavy smoke and fire showing. He was able to pull an elderly man to safety and began CPR.

Wesley Tidwell is a dedicated and devoted firefighter to Killen VFD and his community. Congratulations!

Wanda Andress Receives Sherry Garner Memorial Award

Wanda Andress is described as the "backbone" of the Wicksburg VFD in Houston County. She has served as the fire chief for the past four years but has volunteered with the department over twenty- five years. She is described as being hands-on in all aspects of the department. Andress recently started a junior firefighter program and believes in getting young children involved with volunteering. She is currently seeking to secure funding to build a second fire station.



Chief Andress recently played a vital role in rescuing a disabled young lady from a burning structure fire. She doesn't think twice about risking her life to save another life.

Wanda Andress is a dedicated wife, mother and teacher in the Wicksburg community and fire department. Congratulations!

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Allison Automatic



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Cascade System
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From the Desk of... *Matt Russell*

Executive Director, Alabama Fire College & Personnel Standards Commission

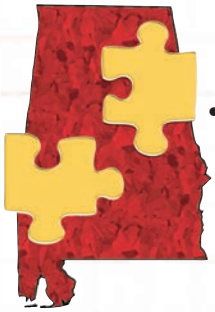


Me, Us, Them

Life safety, incident stabilization, property conservation are the three primary responsibilities of emergency responders. Life safety is always the first priority. There is a mantra in the fire service, Me, Us, Them, designed to be used as a reminder that we need to take care of ourselves first (Me), our crew members next (Us), so that eventually, when called upon, we can take care of those we serve (Them). Because firefighting is one of the most dangerous professions where, on average 100 of us dies each year, "taking care of ourselves" means attending to our mental health, knowledge, education, training, and our physical fitness. Of the 100 who perish each year, half die of heart attacks and/or strokes. Some of these statistics are preventable. It is my hope that we will begin to exhibit the same zeal toward preventing our own health issues as we do when the tone goes off to take care of our constituent's issues.

In late 2016, the Alabama Fire College was questioned by one of our Firefighter Bridge training programs what is done to screen those who wish to become certified firefighters. ANSWER: For those seeking to become Certified Career Firefighters a Physical Statement must be on file. For those seeking to become Certified Volunteer Firefighters there was no requirement. The question elicited a rhetorical response: Were we placing the same importance on the health of volunteers as we were on that of paid firefighters? Unfortunately, we were not giving the same consideration to both groups-the runs are the same, the fires are the same, the stress is the same, the heart attacks are the same, and on and on.

In order to rectify this discrepancy beginning in January, 2018 those wishing to become Certified Volunteer Firefighters must have on file with the Commission a Physical Statement. The Physical Statement is simply an approval by a physical or his designee that the candidate can perform the 13 Essential Job Tasks associated with firefighting. The form can be found at <http://www.alabamafirecollege.org/docs/docs/physicalstatement.pdf?sfvrsn=4>. This is not retroactive and does not impact anyone who is already certified. It will only affect anyone who wishes to become a Certified Volunteer Firefighter beginning in 2018. I realize there are costs associated with this rule change. However, the monetary cost is much less than the price others who have not been screened have paid for their willingness to serve. If you have any questions or if you need more information please contact your Regional Coordinator.



Bits and Pieces From Around the State

- BallPlay Bend VFD in Etowah County recently took delivery of a new rescue boat. The rescue boat was made possible by private donations and various organizations.



- The Alabama Fire Service has worked tirelessly to improve access to affordable residential sprinkler systems. The hard work paid off on June 29, 2017 as Governor Kay Ivy signed HB 66 into law.

- The AAVFD sends our condolences to AAVFD Auxiliary member Angie Moffett, her husband, Joey and daughter Crystal, in the loss of Angie's mother, Carolyn Tolbert. Mrs. Tolbert passed away on Friday, August 4, 2017.

- Congratulations to State EMA Director Art Faulkner on his retirement on September 1, 2017. Faulkner has more than nearly three decades of services to the state of Alabama. The AAVFD would like to thank Faulkner for his dedication and service to the citizens of Alabama and more so his commitment to the Volunteer Fire Service.



- The Limestone County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments was happy to receive funding from the Alabama Forestry Commission. This money will assist in offsetting some of the Department's operational cost throughout the year. Pictured from left to right: Senator Bill Holtzclaw, Forestry Commission VFA Coordinator Greg Wood, and Regional Coordinator David Bullion, House

of Representative district 6 Phil Williams, District 3 Senator Arthur Orr and Limestone County Association President Derrick Gatlin.



- East Limestone VFD recently received funding from the Alabama Forestry Commission. Shown are Fire Chief Joey Boyd and District 2 Senator Bill Holtzclaw.



DeKalb County Online 160 student, Amanda Sisk of Powell VFD, participating in hazmat wearing a Class B suit



DeKalb County Online 160 student, Kevin Fowler of Dogtown VFD, participating in hazmat training wearing a Class A suit.

- Thank you to East Limestone Competition Team for sharing their team photo!
- DeKalb County Association of Fire Departments, DCAFD, is holding its third online 160 Class. The class began in March and will finish up in September. Instructors include Jon Burt and Daryl Lester with the help of Rainsville Fire, Willie Wright and Jason "Motor" Brannon, Mentone Firefighter Wes Pullen, Downtown Firefighter Jeffery Wagner, along with several other volunteer instructors who have worked hard to make this class as successful as the preceding classes.



DeKalb Co Online 160 class preparing to learn vertical ventilation

- Along with volunteering their time Rainsville Fire Department and the City of Rainsville allowed DCAFD to use one of their condemned structures for a good portion of JPR's for Block 3. Upon class conclusion in September DCAFD will be honored to be placing approximately twenty plus certified volunteer firefighters to work in DeKalb County.

An Awesome Story On Underwood-Petersville VFD

– Times Daily – By Tom Smith

Fire Chief Joe Maxwell said when firefighters and EMTs work wrecks, their connection with patients normally ends at the ambulance, or when the patient arrives at the hospital. "You often wonder if they make it or not," said Maxwell, chief of the Underwood-Petersville Volunteer Fire Department.

One of the patients local EMTs wondered about was a young boy injured in a wreck during a rainstorm on Sept. 10, 2016. He was with his mother and sister when their vehicle ran off Rasch Road and flipped several times. "They were 30 to 40 feet down the embankment," said Lonnie Hayes, a firefighter/EMT with Underwood-Petersville. "We got him into the ambulance and we started working on him. Every breath he took was a struggle for him. Every breath he took, we just knew that it could be his last. "Hayes said he, Shoals Ambulance Paramedic Buddy Kempt and Leslie Whitten, a nurse and EMT with Mid-Lauderdale Volunteer Department, were in the ambulance. "He was bleeding bad, so bad that he was throwing up blood," Hayes said. Because of the storm, air ambulance helicopters could not fly, so the patient was driven to Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence. From there, he was taken by ambulance to Children's Hospital at UAB. "He had injuries that should have killed him with uncontrollable bleeding that no matter what we did, we couldn't get stopped. It was a miracle he made it to ECM," Hayes said. "Then, the fact he made it to Children's Hospital in an ambulance was another miracle. He was broken up bad and had head trauma. "Maxwell said none of the firefighters knew the boy's name or his condition.

On May 28, Maxwell and other members of the Underwood-Petersville department were cooking fish inside the fire station for their monthly fish fry. "I heard a lady holler at me. I didn't pay attention at first, and she hollered again. I turned around," Maxwell said. "She said, 'Do you remember me?' I said 'no,' and she said, 'Do you remember him?' She stepped back and this young man in a baseball uniform

was standing there. "I was caught off guard. I asked, 'Is that the little boy in the wreck?' She said 'yes.' You never forget the ones that involve children, especially, the bad ones. "Firefighters, first responders, they don't get shook up and emotional over a lot of things," Maxwell said. "We go where and when we're called. We do what we have to do. But it was tough not to show some emotion when that little boy walked into the station."

On Saturday, 10-year-old Ethan Mitchell and his family returned to the station as special fire department guests. They ate lunch and visited with the firefighters, EMTs and ambulance personnel who responded to the wreck. They were given a tour of the department, and Ethan was given a ride on the fire truck. Ethan's mother, Julie, said her son doesn't remember the wreck, or playing baseball earlier that day at Underwood Dixie Youth fields. Storms that day forced the games to be canceled. They were on their way home to Kossuth, Mississippi, when the wreck occurred. She said her daughter, Ansley, 12, was in the front seat. Ethan was in the back. "I turned the curve and as soon as I was on top of the hill it was like I was on ice. The car was out of control," Mitchell said. "I remember looking in the back at Ethan and telling him to hold on to the door. I didn't want it to fly open. "As she tried to bring the car under control from hydroplaning, she saw another car coming up the hill. "I kept getting faster and faster, and I was wondering how I was going to get the car under control before I hit that other car," she said. "I barely touched the brakes to try and get traction, and we went off the road down the hill. "When her Ford Excursion came to a rest, the doors were jammed and the windows broken. She quickly checked her children. Her daughter was OK, but Ethan had been thrown behind the backseat and was struggling to breathe. "It was a labored, gurgling breathing," Mitchell said. "I was afraid he was going to die, and I crawled in the back with him. I didn't want him to be alone."

Continued on page 18
see **Underwood-Petersville**

Timmy Crager Receives 2017 President Award

President Mike Green presented the 2017 President's Award to Chief Timmy Crager of Laton Hill VFD in Washington County. Crager has over 30 years in the fire service as a paid and volunteer firefighter.



Crager is described as an all-around great firefighter and leader who displays dedication and compassion for his department and community. He is very loyal to the fire service. Crager serves as Vice-President of Washington County Fire Association Board where he is actively involved in encouraging all departments in the county to participate in trainings and assisting departments learn the importance of unity and interoperability. Congratulations on receiving this award and thank you for serving the citizens of Washington County.

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Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35407
www.alabamafirefightersabf.org
1-855-531-3718

August 14, 2017

The last few months have been an exciting time for the Annuity and Benefit Fund. In July the Commission approved an increase in monthly benefits for retired members for the first time in the funds short history. The Fund was established in 2010 by the Alabama Legislature and began operations that year to provide a meaningful benefit to Alabama Firefighters. The initial actuarial study of the Fund set the maximum benefit at \$60.00 per month (established in 2012). The most recent study that was completed raises the monthly benefit to \$90.00 per month and we expect to continue to see that amount increase in the years to come. The Fund continues to invest each year with RSA and even in the current economic conditions the return has been respectable.

The members of the Commission encourage firefighters to join the Fund and benefit from this program as it continues to grow stronger. The cost is minimal for firefighters (\$20.00 per month) and the benefits are great and getting better every year. This program is open to all firefighters in the state of Alabama regardless of the type of department that serve with.

Thanks,



C.R. Vaughan
Chairman

2017 AAVFD SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year the AAVFD selects a female and male to receive college scholarships. We are honored to announce Aubrey Anna May and Christopher Jathen Burk as the two recipients.

AUBREY ANNA MAY is the daughter of Chief Charles and Anna May from the West Bend/Bethel VFD in Clarke County. Charles has been a member of the department since 2001 and currently serving as Chief.

Aubrey will be attending Coastal Alabama Community College and plans to major in Health Sciences. Aubrey maintained an A average all through high school and helps out with many fire department activities.

CHRISTOPHER JATHEN BURK is the son of Chris and Donna Burk. Chris is currently serving as Lt. of the East Randolph VFD in Randolph County and has been a member since 2003. Christopher plans to attend the University of West Georgia and pursue a nursing degree. He maintained Honor Roll status all through high school and is also very active with the East Randolph VFD. Please join us in congratulating these fine young people on their accomplishments and wish them the best for the future!

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Alabama State Firefighter Memorial

The 14th annual firefighter Memorial Ceremony will be held Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 3:00pm on the campus of the Alabama Fire College. (2501 Phoenix Drive – Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405)

The Alabama Fire College is home to the Alabama Firefighter Memorial. The Alabama Joint Fire Council, made up of representatives from the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs, the Alabama Firefighters Association, the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments and the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Alabama unanimously agreed that a monument should be erected to serve as the official memorial to honor firefighters of Alabama who have given their lives in the Line-of-Duty and to pay tribute to those firefighters who heroically serve with pride, courage and honor.



Alabama Firefighter Memorial

Underwood-Petersville

Continued from page 14 ...

Ethan was in Children's Hospital for seven weeks. He was in intensive care on life-support for seven days. "I trusted God with whatever happened," Mitchell said. "I knew we had done everything that could be done. I knew it was in God's hands — he's the Great Physician. I was at peace with whatever happened. I might not like it, but I would OK with it." Ethan was in a medically induced coma for three weeks. After awakening, he remained in ICU for a week, and then spent three weeks on the rehab floor before he was discharged to come home. "He was in a walking boot, having to use a wheelchair to get around," Mitchell said. "He could talk and communicate with us, but because of the brain damage, he couldn't walk or feed himself. He had a hard time swallowing and was still using a feeding tube."

Ethan will be entering fifth grade in the fall. He has some effects from his injuries. He still goes

to rehab. "He loves baseball. That's his sport," Mitchell said. "I told his travel ball coach in December that (Ethan) would never play baseball again. He has proven me wrong and he is doing well, playing in the recreation league. "I love baseball," Ethan said. "I haven't gotten to play with my travel ball team. I play pitcher, shortstop and first base. I bet you haven't seen many left-handed shortstops, but I'm one."

"There is no doubt in my mind that what those firefighters and EMTs did for Ethan saved his life," Mitchell said. "We just wanted to meet them to tell them thank you, and let them see that they did save his life. We'll never forget what they did for us. "The firefighters and medical personnel who worked that stormy-day wreck in September 2016 said they will never forget Ethan's visit. "I've been doing this 20 years and this wreck touched me more than any other," Hayes said. "He had injuries so severe that he shouldn't have been alive when we got to him. "There was a higher power at work that night."

THE BELL TOLLED

- **Clint Hardemon** passed away August 13, 2017 after responding to a structure fire. Hardemon was a lieutenant with the West Blocton VFD in Bibb County. He served the West Blocton VFD and his community for over five years. Hardemon dedicated much of his life to serving the citizens of West Blocton.
- **Roger Wilson** passed away on July 25, 2017. He was a Life Member of AAVFD and a former member of the AAVFD Board of Directors. Roger was a member of Piney Woods VFD in Walker County and also Director of the Walker County 911. He will be greatly missed.
- **James "Jim" McConnell** passed away on July 15, 2017. He was member of the Sand Valley VFD in Etowah County and formerly served as a police officer and paramedic in Baton Rouge, LA. After moving to Alabama, Jim became a paramedic and served with Rural Metro Ambulance Service. He owned and operated Tribute Medical Co. Jim's main purpose in life was to help others. Jim passed away from pancreatic cancer.
- **Jeremiah Rogers** passed away on July 13, 2017. He was a member of the Pike County Fire & Rescue in Pike County.
- **Doug Garmon** passed away on July 13, 2017. He served the community more than 32 years and was a Lieutenant with the Good Hope Fire & Rescue in Cullman County.
- **Billy Hutto**, age 79, passed away July 7, 2017. Hutto served the community and Wicksburg VFD (Houston County) for twenty five plus years. He was a godly man who was loved by many and will be greatly missed.
- **Charlie Chastain**, age 83, passed away on July 7, 2017. Chastain served Tri-Community Fire Department as Chaplain and was an active member of Flat Rock VFD (Jackson County). He was a retired United States Air Force veteran.
- **Robert Dick** passed away on July 3, 2017. He was a member of the Egypt VFD in Etowah County.
- **Carlton Utley**, age 39, passed away on June 26, 2017 as a result of an accident. Utley served as the Assistant Chief of Spring Valley VFD in Colbert County. He was serving his second term as the Colbert County Coroner and was a paramedic with Keller EMS. Utley selflessly served the community for over twenty years. He was a great asset to his community.
- **Edward "Joe" Polifka** passed away on June 8, 2016. He was a member of the Forkland VFD in Greene County.
- **Horace Brown** passed away on June 5, 2017. He was a member of the Boligee VFD in Greene County.
- **Robert Bowers** passed away on May 17, 2017. He was a member of Ball Play 1 VFD in Etowah County.
- **George Thomas (Tommy) Blackburn, Jr.**, passed away May 15, 2017. Blackburn was a longtime member and firefighter of Rogersville VFD in Lauderdale County. He was one of the first EMT's at Rogersville VFD and he helped organize the Rogersville Emergency Ambulance Unit. Blackburn was also one of the first certified firefighters in the state. He was a great asset to his community and will be greatly missed!
- **Chris Black**, age 45, passed away on May 12, 2017 as a result of a traffic accident. Black was a member of Rabun VFD in Baldwin County. He had volunteered with the department for over 19 years.
- **Carol Pritchett**, passed away April 30, 2017. Pritchett served with the Waugh Mt. Meigs VFD in Montgomery County. She had volunteered with the department over three years.
- **Edward Wayne "Chief" Gray**, age 51, passed away on April 20, 2017. Gray served with various fire departments in Elmore County for over 40 years and was former chief of Coosada and Elmore VFD.
- **Andrea Levelle Winters** passed away on March 12, 2017. Winters was a member of Mantua/Lewiston VFD in Greene County.
- **Willie E. Barnes** passed away on March 11, 2017. Barnes was a member of the Mantua/Lewiston VFD in Greene County.
- **Max F. Larkin, III** passed away on January 30, 2017. He was a member the Sumter County Rescue Squad, Coatopa-Dug Hill VFD and Coatopa-Belmont VFD in Sumter County.
- **Frankye Owens** passed away August 5, 2016. Owens was a member of Ball Play Bend VFD in Etowah County.
- **Ricky Bellew** passed away May 28, 2016. Bellew was a member of Gallant VFD in Etowah County.
- **Donald Payne** passed away April 14, 2016. Payne was a member of Egypt VFD in Etowah County.
- **Leonard Conrad** passed away on December 14, 2016. He was a member of the Wallace VFD in Escambia County.
- **Kenneth Davis** passed away July 17, 2015. Davis was a member of Altoona VFD in Etowah County.
- *****We are honored to publish news items received from around the state including bell tolled information. Deadlines and timeframes are important and we take them serious. Please send bell tolled names in the timeframe of each newsletter. Information can be sent at any time. You are not required to wait until the deadline to submit information. Thank you for understanding!*****

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

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Green

Executive Assistant: Wanda Jones

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Monday through Friday 8:00 - 5:00

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