

Secretary's Musings

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2009 Training Conference

The 43rd Annual Training Conference will once again take place at the Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls. In this mailing you will find the registration and agenda information. The training will be called "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Firefighters." We are blessed to have two of our own chaplains trained in this topic, the Revs. Leon VanWie and Thomas Margrave. In cooperation with the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and a SAFER grant, they have been trained in this "Signature Series" designed specifically for firefighters and based on Steven R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

There will also be a Tuesday evening session by Rev. Wayne Jagow, past chief chaplain called – "Devotion to Duty vs. Devotion in Duty" along with the Annual Memorial Service, Banquet, and Annual Meeting.

Spouses' Event

A side trip for spouses is planned on Tuesday. If you are interested, talk to past Chief Bill Miles for further details. Don't forget to bring money for shopping. *Hint*

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday evening, April 26, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the NYS Academy of Fire Science.

This is a new time and date for the meeting so please take note of the change. On the agenda is election of officers and 3 directors, some by-law changes, and general information about the workings of the association.

If you are unable to attend the conference but are free for the meeting, please feel free to stop by and participate in the business of the conference. Elections will also be held. The nominations are listed on a separate page in this mailing and by-law changes are included later in this mailing.

We look forward to everyone's participation.

DUES

All dues for 2009 are due. If I have not received your dues as of March 5th, an invoice will be mailed to you. Please pay your dues promptly.

New Chaplain Training

At the Board of Directors meeting, it was decided not to have the New Chaplain Training at the conference because of the topic being presented. The training will be available at regional meetings throughout the coming year. Please contact your regional director for the dates and times of this training.

BY-LAW CHANGES

On a separate sheet are the by-law changes that will be brought to the membership at the annual meeting. The biggest change is the elimination of the mandate of at least one ordained clergy in the Chief or Deputy Chief positions and at least 5 directors to be ordained.

The second by-law change will be the elimination of the Life Member designation and replacing it with a 10-year membership recognition. The life membership designation has been a recognition award for the paying of seven consecutive years of paying dues. It does not mean a member ceases to pay dues, but just a simple recognition award. The reason for the change is to avoid confusion with other group and/or organizations definition of a life member and replace it with a recognition based on 10 years of service.

THINGS TO DO

As you head out to Montour Falls, you may want to stop by the following:

Newtown Battlefield - A Revolutionary War battle on August 22, 1779

Elmira Civil War Prison Camp Site - A notorious site in which nearly 3,000 Confederate prisoners died between 1864-1865.

Mark Twain Study & Exhibit - The office where Mark Twain wrote Huckleberry Finn.

Woodlawn Cemetery - The graves of the 3,000 prisoners are buried there along with Mark Twain.

National Warplane Museum - The museum traces aviation from 1919 to the present with an emphasis on WWII, Korean, & Vietnam War era aircraft.

Montour Falls - Find the falls that gave its name to the village. Just one of 19 falls along the Watkins Glen Gorge.

Take time to enjoy the wonders of the area.

Mailing Address



The mailing address for the Association is:

New York State Association of Fire Chaplains
PO Box 241
Old Westbury, NY 11568-0241

The web page and email address are:

www.nysafc.org

nysafc@optonline.net