

Secretary's Musings

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2007 Training Conference

The 2007 Conference is ready to happen. The 41st 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 a back to basics format. We will have sessions on "Preparing Services" (memorial, wake, prayers, etc.), Death Notifications, LODD, and funeral services. There will also be a session for New Chaplain Training along with the Annual Memorial Service, Banquet, and Annual Meeting.

Spouses' Event

A side trip for spouses is planned to the Corning Glass Center. There will be a nominal additional expense of around \$30.00 per person. The spouses will head out Tuesday morning, tour the Corning Glass Center, have lunch, stop at the Arnot Mall for some shopping and be back to the Academy around 4 or 5 p.m., in time for dinner. If you are interested, drop Chief Chaplain Bill Miles an email to sweeneychap@hotmail.com, send him a note at 470 Adam Street, Tonawanda, New York 14150, or call his cell phone (716) 583-1413.

Letter from the Chief Chaplain

It is hard to believe that it has almost been a year since our 40th Anniversary Training Conference in Niagara Falls. My how time flies! It is also hard to believe that I only have a little over a year left in my term as your Chief Chaplain. It has truly been an honor to serve in this capacity so far and I look forward to what the Lord has in store for me and our Organization in the months to come.

Our work is progressing to bring this Association down to a region level. Enclosed in this packet is a by-law change that will allow us to establish six regions and give the responsibility to those Board Members from those regions to establish communication between us and our members. This will assist us in the future to plan training events in the region level. It is my hope and the hope of the Board that we can bring our materials to your level as well as provide training for our Chaplains at the annual conference. I hope you will support this initiative?

For those who are still waiting for your couples pictures from last year, I have not forgotten, I just haven't found the pictures, the envelopes, the postage, and the time, all at the same time to put them together to get them out to you. They are forthcoming.

I appreciate all of the calls and emails of support and especially the wonderful love and support that were expressed during the loss of my mother-in-law in November.

I am proud to walk in the footsteps of so many Chaplains who have held the reigns of this organization. I am proud of our forefathers who had the insight to develop this organization into a recognized leader for training of Fire Chaplains across New York State. I hope that you utilize the information that has been gathered, to make you a better Fire Chaplain for the men and women you serve and ultimately, Almighty God.

William Miles, Chief Chaplain

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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 that the directors be in charge of regions to help provide local meetings and training. There will be a total of six (6) regional directors and three (3) at-large directors; 1/3 of these directors will be elected each year. Please read all the proposed changes before the meeting.

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 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.

NIMS COMPLIANT

All members are urged to be trained in NIMS Courses 100, 200, & 700. Courses 100 & 700 are introductory courses and Course 200 is a more detailed class. All firefighters are to be trained to this level. Please send copies of your certification to the Executive Secretary.

The New York State Association of Fire Chaplains NIMS Plan of Action is included in this mailing. More information and discussion will take place at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 2, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the NYS Academy of Fire Science. 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. We look forward to everyone's participation.

DUES

All dues for 2007 are due. If I have not received your dues as of February 25, an invoice is included with this mailing. Please pay your dues promptly.

Mailing Address



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