

## ARNOLD NEUENSCHWANDER

It seems appropriate that the very first person to become a member of the KFA “Hall of Fame” would be its first President. The Kentucky Firemen’s Association, as it was named at that time, was originally formed in September of 1919. About 20 fire chiefs and officers from throughout the commonwealth were in attendance at that first meeting in the Council Chamber in City Hall in Louisville, Ky. Louisville’s own Fire Chief, Arnold Neuenschwander, was chosen as the first President of the newly formed association and will be the first inductee into its Hall of Fame.

Chief Neuenschwander served on the Louisville Fire Department from 1891 until 1910. At that time he resigned his fire department position to become demonstrator for the Ahrens Fox Engine Manufacturing Company in Cincinnati. While in the employ of this company he performed a new feat that brought him national attention. He set a water pressure record, forcing a stream of water to the top of the Woolworth Building in New York City.

When a former Louisville Mayor assumed office again in 1917, he offered the position of Fire Chief to Mr. Neuenschwander, who accepted the appointment on December 8, 1917. During his tenure as Louisville Fire Chief, Neuenschwander greatest achievement is said to be “nearly the complete motorization of the department”.

Arnold Neuenschwander held the position of KFA President for the first 6 years of the association’s existence. The annual conference was held under his guidance in Louisville for each of these years.

Some of the major accomplishments of President Neuenschwander and the KFA in those early years included passage of Legislation in 1920 for Civil Service law governing fire and police. This law was further amended and strengthened through legislative acts in 1922 and 1924. President Neuenschwander’s terms were also credited with continued growth and participation of departments throughout the Commonwealth. After Neuenschwander’s nearly 6 years in office, the Kentucky Firemen’s Association was established and viewed as the premier fire department organization within the state.

In June of 1924, President Neuenschwander grew ill and after more than a month, died from his illness on July 21, 1924, while still holding our President’s position.

President Neuenschwander led the KFA as our President for nearly 6 years. He proved a progressive Chief for the City of Louisville and was the perfect man to lead our association through its formative years.

The KFA is honored to posthumously present as the first inductee into our “Hall of Fame” .... Chief Arnold Neuenschwander of the Louisville Fire Department.

Presenting the first Hall of Fame Award of the KFA to Chief Greg Frederick and Assistant Chief Cletus Blandford of the Louisville Fire Department in the name of President Neuenschwander was KFA President Randy Lawson.

