



Smoke Signals II

Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

Robert Bryant Stiles

Bryant was born December 5, 1956 in Owensboro, Kentucky to Robert Louis and Mary Edwina Tanner Stiles, and was married to the former Cherie Ann Gilmore on February 10, 1979.

Bryant received his Business Degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College, was the Director of State Fire Rescue Training and Homeland Security exercise program, earlier worked as a loan officer at the former Cardinal Federal Bank in Owensboro, and attended Calhoun Baptist Church. He joined the McLean County Central District Fire Department in 1974, served as the Fire Chief, and was currently serving as the Assistant Fire Chief. Bryant was a member of the Kentucky Firefighters Association, served as the treasurer, was a member of the National Volunteer Fire Council, served on committees with the National Fire Protection Association, was a member of the North America Fire Training Directors Association, and was inducted on July 31, 2012 into the Kentucky Firefighters Association Hall of Fame. He loved his family and enjoyed spending time with both them and his friends.

Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Cherie Stiles; two daughters, Christin Brown and husband, Thomas of Livermore and Hannah Stiles of Calhoun; a grandson, Clay Thomas Brown; his parents, Bobby and Edwina Stiles of Calhoun; and a brother, Michael Stiles and wife, Kim of Rumsey.

The above obituary tells very little of who Bryant Stiles really was. Bryant was a very close friend of mine and he was critical to the fire service of Kentucky. The picture to the right was taken the night Bryant received his induction to the KFA Hall of Fame. He was so very proud of that honor. He had a vision of where the fire service of Kentucky should go and would let nothing stand in his way to achieve that goal. His actual accomplishments are too numerous to mention but suffice it to say he lived and breathed the Kentucky Fire Service. We have lost an irreplaceable advocate. He shall be missed. See page 6 for some personal memories. Woody



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Notes From The President's Desk Sam Stacy

The KFA Executive Board is working hard for all the firefighters of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We held our annual Fall Executive Board meeting during the Buffalo Trace Fire School on the campus of Maysville Community College on October 27, 2012. A lot of the directors and committees have been very busy working on projects since the conference in July and a lot of work is still to be completed.

During the fall meeting several important items were discussed. Howdy Kurtsinger updated everyone present on the legislative efforts going on in Frankfort especially the committee looking into the pension reform. The committee looking into pension reform has meeting scheduled for November and then again in December to vote on recommendations that will be sent on to the full House and Senate to be considered in next year's General Assemblies session. Please keep up with this process as it moves along because it affects a large number of not only firefighters but numerous other groups as well. Howdy and Gerald will be sending out more informational emails after these meetings to keep you inform as to what actions we need to take to help in this process.

Another subject that come up during the financial report was that we have incurred an approximately \$9,000 shortfall in revenue from the license plate sale this year. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet informed us that all proceeds from these sales were down this year for one reason or another. The \$9,000 will have to be accounted for in one form or fashion to get the budget back into alignment. I along with the Executive Board would encourage each of you to promote the usage of the KFA license plate and if you or anyone from your department doesn't have a KFA license plate now go out and get one for your vehicle. The KFA stands to gain \$10 for each firefighter plate that is on vehicles in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Those are just two of the issues that were discussed during the fall meeting, and I encourage all of you to look at the minutes from the meeting to see all the subjects discussed. Better

yet I encourage each and every one of you to attend these meetings and have an input into the business of the Kentucky Firefighters Association.

The KFA will be having its next Executive Board meeting in Lexington on February 23, 2013 at 9am during the Kentucky Officers School hosted by the Green River Firefighters Association. I would personally invite each and every one of you to come out and participate in the meeting and enjoy one of the finest fire schools the Commonwealth of Kentucky has to offer. I especially would like to see all the KFA Directors there to participate in the business of the Kentucky Firefighters Association. The Director's job is to participate in the business and then to take it back to each association to let them know what is going on in the KFA. The KFA is only as strong as the local associations and we encourage you to come out and let your voices be heard.

We are quickly approaching the Christmas Holiday season and my family and I would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let us not forget all the military men and women out there in harm's way this year and say a special prayer for their safety and speedy return home. Most importantly let us all not forget the true reason behind this glorious season. May God bless each of you and keep you safe while you are out there protecting lives and property in our great Commonwealth. Be safe and I hope to see each of you in Lexington for the Officer's School.

Sam Stacy



From the 3rd VP Jeff Pohlman

Greetings from Northern Kentucky! By the time this article is published Turkey Dinner should be digested and the Christmas season upon us. This is a very busy time of the year for many of our firefighting families with many festivities throughout this great Commonwealth. It is very imperative that we stress safety to our citizen customers during this time of year with heating systems, Christmas decorations, and inclement weather.

As the New Year rolls around, the Legislative

session will begin. It is important that we stay educated on the various legislative issues that affect the fire service, and believe me there are a few! We have very good lobbyists working for the Kentucky Fire Service and it is important when they ask for your assistance that we give it the topmost attention. In fact, it is very educational to spend a few hours in Frankfort during the session to see how Government works. It definitely will give you a different perspective on how "things" work in the Commonwealth.

And finally, on behalf of my wife Dottie and myself, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jeffrey H. Pohlman

Fire/EMS Chief

Alexandria Fire District

3rd VP-KFA



Dixie Firefighter Assn. news events.

Chief Larry Naser, Secretary, DFA

By the time this article comes out, several important things will have happened in both the Dixie Association and across the Commonwealth. First, news from the Dixie Association. As many of you know, our yearly memorial service and awards dinner was held on October, 25, 2012. At this ceremony, our association honored past and current members of the fire service. Our ceremony was led by President Froman Peters who called the program to order at 6 PM. Color presentation was handled by the Kentucky State Police post five honor guard. The Honor Guard did an outstanding job. The ceremony continued with the Pledge of Allegiance and the "Heart of Kentucky Men's Chorus" who sang our National Anthem and God Bless America.

This year, a decision was made to change the format for honoring fallen members. Any member who had died in the line of duty anytime would be remembered by reading their name aloud. Members who had died within the preceding 12 months or members whose names had not been mentioned in the past would be so honored by reading their name aloud. Thanks to some very hard work by Kim Davenport and Ira Dyer, members who had died in prior years were honored by showing their names in a video PowerPoint

presentation later in the program. The meal was provided and seemed to hit the spot.

During the awards portion of the ceremony, over fifty Dixie Area Firefighters were recognized for their achievements. Certificates were presented to certified firefighters, those obtaining a variety of IFSAC awards, Hazardous Materials training, medical training and Red Cross training. The evening came to a close and everyone was sent home with a smile.

The 2012 inductees for the Dixie Hall of fame were two wonderful people who have put forth a tremendous amount of effort to help the Dixie Association. KCTCS Region Five fire rescue coordinator Casey Hall was asked to present the two inductees for the Hall of Fame. Casey did an outstanding job introducing the two recipients' for 2012. The 2012 inductees are Russell (Rusty) Todd and Kim Davenport. Both of these fine individuals have been a major contributor to the success of many Dixie Projects. Both have served as officers in the past and both have worked to build the association into the organization it is today. Congratulation to both Kim and Rusty.

The Dixie Firefighter Association and the Green River Firefighters Association will have a joint meeting on November 15th, 2012. This is the third joint meeting held between our two agencies and was held in Leitchfield at the Ronald Hudson Station. Information concerning this meeting will be shared in a later edition.

Dues Notices have been sent out to all Dixie Area Departments and individuals we had on our list. Our dues for 2013 are \$50.00 per department or district and \$10.00 per individual. Agencies who do not return their dues by March 1, 2013 will no longer be considered in good standing with the Association until they are paid. Please get your dues in. Checks can be sent to:

Dixie Firefighters Association

PO Box 1656

Elizabethtown, KY 42702

Attn: Steve Sheets

Progress with the 2012 Dixie Fire School is moving forward. The March 2013 Dixie Fire School will be a great one. Information about classes will be coming out very soon. Please look

"Dixie News" continued on next page

“Dixie News” continued

for your information in the US mail. If you want an e mail copy of the information, please drop me a note to lnaser@mcfd.com and I will forward it to you when it is ready.

October was fire prevention month. I hope you took the opportunity to visit with your children in schools, your senior citizens and anybody else who would listen to you about fire safety. This year’s NFPA theme centered on having two ways out of your home or work. I wonder how many of us really think of two ways out of our homes. With light weight construction, highly flammable and combustible furnishings, time is critical to saving lives in residential fires. Many departments simply cannot arrive on scene before it is unsafe to attempt interior rescue and firefighting. Having the occupants outside and all accounted for prior to our arrival saves civilian lives and reduces unnecessary risk for our firefighters. By the way, if you have not changed the batteries in your smoke detectors, stop what you are doing, put down this copy of Smoke Signals and change the batteries. We really need to practice what we preach.

Last year, about this time, I submitted an article for Smoke Signals concerning voting. I was pleased that so many voters and firefighters went to the pole and exercised their right to vote. I am glad the political commercials are finally gone, just in time for the Christmas commercials to begin. It seems we go from one season to the next. It great to be an American.

Finally, with the approach of the Holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, on behalf of Dixie Association President Froman Peters, Vice Presidents Chuck Helm and Ryan Slaubaugh, Treasure Steve Sheets, Sergeant at Arms Dale Dobson and myself, Larry Naser, Secretary, and all our association members, We wish you Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. As a final thought, to quote Sergeant Phil Esterhouse from the TV Show “Hill Street Blues” (yes I am dating myself) “Let’s be careful out there”

Sincerely,

Larry Naser

Secretary Dixie Firefighters Association



NFPA’s Commitment to the Fire Service: Key NFPA Goals

By

Russ Sanders, NFPA’s Central Regional Director

In the last edition of Smoke Signals II, I introduced myself and NFPA and wrote briefly about NFPA’s fire-service-driven leadership. In this edition I would like to specifically address key NFPA goals that provide value to the fire service.

Home Fire Sprinklers

NFPA’s number one goal is supporting the adoption of home fire sprinklers in new one and two family homes. NFPA has put its full force of resources to work supporting the adoption of sprinkler regulations/ordinances/statutes and working to defeat anti-sprinkler efforts. When it comes to sprinklers, even if the regulation/legislation is in the form of the International Code Council’s residential code, NFPA will put its time, talent and resources behind supporting the adoption. We will continue to support pro-sprinkler activities and fight anti-sprinkler campaigns throughout the United States, Canada and beyond.

NFPA co-founded and chairs the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). The HFSC’s mission is to educate all stakeholders about the importance of home fire sprinklers.

NFPA founded and funds the Fire Sprinkler Initiative (FSI). The FSI supports sprinkler adoptions by providing the fire service and other advocates with extensive resources, including numerous, comprehensive studies and reports covering topics such as installation cost, economic development, water usage, environmental impact (green), water meters, trade ups, and more. All of these reports are free to anyone with an interest in fire and life safety through its website www.firesprinklerinitiative.org.

The NFPA “Faces of Fire” campaign, designed to put a face on the life-saving impact of home sprinklers, was initially funded through a USFA grant. This campaign features real people telling personal stories to demonstrate the need for sprinklers. This year the grant was no longer funded; however, NFPA picked up the full cost to continue this important program.

On April 2-3, 2012, NFPA sponsored the inau-

gural Fire Sprinkler Summit. Representatives from throughout the U.S. and Canada came together in Chicago to share ideas and learn from the group's collective experiences. Chief Jack Reckner and Rick Daugherty represented the Kentucky Fire Service.

In addition to our headquarters' staff, NFPA employs two, full-time sprinkler field experts (Tim Travers & Jeff Hudson) along with Maria Figueroa who provides research and communications support.

Fire Safe Cigarettes

After decades of unsuccessful attempts to pass federal legislation to save lives and prevent injuries from cigarette-ignited fires, NFPA championed a state-by-state campaign to get model legislation adopted. Working with the fire service and other advocates, legislation was passed in all 50 states. According to the most recent NFPA report, civilian deaths attributed to smoking material fires in the United States in 2010 were at or near an all-time-low. The Kentucky Fire Service played a key role in making what was a dream for decades a reality in every state in the U.S.

Wildland Fire Initiative

NFPA has created a new Wildland Fire Operations Division (WFOD), which includes a full-time staff of eight and six part-time contractors. In fall 2011 NFPA opened a new WFOD office in Denver. The WFOD partners with designated state forestry liaisons in 45 states.

The WFOD goals include:

- expanding the reach of the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program to more neighborhoods (currently over 800 communities in 40 states)
- promoting principles that lead to Fire Adapted Communities – where all entities take part in wildfire prevention and mitigation
- providing clear information and messaging to the public on how wildfire behaves, what individual homeowners can do, and the effectiveness of those actions;
- obtaining better information and data on what the wildfire problem really is in terms of property and life loss and injury;
- facilitating the use of GIS mapping by local communities and states to help identify hazard

areas in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI);

- promoting the adoption of standards and ordinances that address land use and building construction in the WUI;
- providing training tools for the fire service and others to conduct comprehensive property risk assessments for homes in the WUI and providing educational information pertaining to what owners can do to mitigate wildland fires; and,
- identifying ways to empower and engage the volunteer fire service in the WUI issue.

Also, NFPA is now the administrative lead of the Fire Adapted Communities program that joins numerous stakeholders around the concept of wildfire mitigation for the whole community – all entities taking part in fire prevention, planning and mitigation.

As I hope you will agree, NFPA walks the talk when it comes to supporting and serving the fire service! In my next article I will discuss NFPA codes and standards and AHJ training and support programs.



Chaplain's Corner

Be Strong and Stand Firm

Christian values are under attack from all sides. In our effort not to offend anyone we have substituted "political correctness" for standing up for what we believe. Sin is still sin as it was in biblical days. Satan is alive and well and is attacking Christians from all sides. In the near future there will be greater attacks on traditional marriage, stronger abortion rite issues, and increase of teaching evolution as a fact not theory.

All of these issues only prove that the fevered pitch of "Spiritual Warfare" is increasing. In Chip Ingram's book "The Invisible War - What Every Believer Needs To Know About Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare" he says that Christians have taken two very extreme views of Satan and his power. We either place undue emphasis on his power or we ignore him completely. Both views are dangerous. Scripture states that Satan was defeated at the cross but that does not mean he is powerless. We must "Put on the whole armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2012 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

Date	Area	Location	Phone
12/1-2	7	Cold Springs	888-306-8101
12/8-9	4	Bowling Green	888-234-5760

Written testing information is available on the Ky IFSAC testing web site at <http://www.kyffcert.com>. Tests are given at the system office usually on the third Monday of the month. Each time you take the written test you must pay a \$15.00 charge. Contact Duane Suttles for more information about written test location and dates at 888-301-2946. REMINDER: Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be a member of a Kentucky FD or a full-time student of Fire Science at ECU or KCTCS to be eligible for firefighter testing. Candidates must bring state issued drivers license or ID card to skills testing site for positive identification and verification of age eligibility. Candidates under 18, may complete any of the written exams, and may certify to Haz Mat Awareness only. All Certifications are based on the Professional Qualification standards set forth by the NFPA for Firefighters, except Haz Mat, which is a Job Performance standard. Our accreditation is through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

Coming Events At a Glance!

Kentucky (Green River) Officer's School

Lexington February 22-24

Dixie Fire School

Elizabethtown March 9-10

Woody Will on Bryant Stiles

I have lost a very close friend, Bryant Stiles, and I shall miss him. I have put together a few thoughts. They are a little lengthy but my heart is heavy with thoughts of my friend. If you have the time read them if not it's OK I just wanted to share.

I considered Bryant one of my closest friends. Our friendship began the day of his interview for a job with State Fire Rescue Training.

It was funny and he has shared this story many times. When he sat down for the interview he said to himself that he knew the number of votes he had before the interview began. He named the people on the interview committee and when he came to me he said "I knew I had your vote". I said "Bryant I didn't vote for you". His mouth dropped to the floor he was astonished. I laugh about it now just thinking about it. He always made me

laugh.

Soon after we started working together I told him a joke about two boys talking about a puppy. I am sure most of you have heard it "MR Puppies". He laughed about the joke and after that I got the name "Mr Puppies" from Bryant, he always called me that.

The first big event he attended as a coordinator was the 1991 KFA Conference in Lexington. Cherie (Bryant's wife) had come just for the banquet Tuesday and when she walked up Bryant introduced her to me and I said "Bryant she is pretty she not homely like you told me". I still laugh when I think about the look on his face. He was always so serious and we made a great team. Our director at that time was Bill Hankinson and when he was up talking I taped a ribbon on his back without him knowing and Bryant told me a few days later that Cherie said "These guys are nothing like the group at the bank are they".

We traveled a lot together. We took several trips to Emmetsburg Maryland, Singer Island Florida, Columbia South Carolina and many more. You can't be in a car with someone for that long of a time without getting to know that person well. He loved his family and he loved the fire service. One time coming back from Emmetsburg we were talking about the 3 new trucks that State Fire Rescue had purchased and I knew how touchy a subject they were with him. But someone had to say it so I did. I said "Bryant what if one of the other coordinators wants the truck and trailer for a couple of weeks to do training". He said "I will take the trailer up to him but he is not getting the truck". I said "Well what if he needs to move the trailer to different locations during that time". He said "HE IS NOT GETTING THE TRUCK"!!! I said "Bryant that isn't your personal truck it belongs to all of us". We had just passed Ashland on our way home. He pulled the van over to the side of I64 and said GET OUT! We laughed about that for years because about a week after we got home he got a call from Kyle Reagan asking to get the truck and burn trailer for a couple of weeks because he had several departments that needed training.

I remember once I took a vacation to Gulf Shores AL for a week with in-laws and family. When I got back Bryant and I had a trip some-

where and during that trip I said “Bryant, I spent a week with family and I have to say they are not near as much fun to be around”. He reminded me of that several times over the next few years. On our trip to Singer Island FL we were between sessions sitting at the hotel grill restaurant on the beach when we looked out over the beach. What looked like, a beautiful young well built thing walked along the beach with her back to us. We both made some comments and then she turned around. Much to our surprise she was a he with beard and all. I think both our faces turned red. I said to Bryant what is that he is wearing? He said it’s a Thong. I said “I thought that was something you wear in a shower on your feet.” We both laughed for a long time over that incident.

I remember spending time with Bryant, Charlie and Jamia over a meal with Bryant’s favorite Thanksgiving/Christmas meal of Honey Ham and all the fixins in Campbellsville. There was a time when Bryant, Charlie and I were inseparable. Once after a fire school in Bowling Green while my daughter Rachel was in college at WKU we took her out to eat. Bryant and Charlie could be a little challenging to a waitress. My daughter said she would never go out to eat with the three of us again because we embarrassed her.

During a legislative year Bryant and I would meet in Caneyville (it’s about half way between Etown and Owensboro) for breakfast usually on Mondays to swap out trailers and keep each other abreast of what was happening with the Green River Firefighters and Dixie Firefighters. If I could set the clock back I would if for no other reason than to spend more time with friends like Bryant.

I will never forget Bryant. It is like I have lost a brother. Bryant was family to me. The Kentucky Fire Service has lost an advocate the likes of which I doubt they will find again anytime soon. I will continue to keep the Stiles family in my prayers. I love you guys. Woody

Words of Wisdom

Waste your money and you're only out of money, but waste your time and you've lost a part of your life.

Michael LeBoeuf



Green River School Named After Bryant Stiles

The Bryant Stiles Officer’s School by the Green River Firefighters Association will be held in Lexington February 22-24, 2013.

The membership of the Green River Association unanimously adopted the official name change of the annual Officer’s School in honor of our long time friend, leader, and school planner at its September meeting. Bryant was not only a friend of the Green River, but a friend to the state and national fire service as well. He will be missed by all of us and it is a tremendous honor to name this Kentucky fire service tradition after our friend.

Several new classes have been added and many of our firefighter recommended ones are back for other leaders to once again take advantage of. The brochures will be posted and mailed by the first of December.

Friday will begin with 3 classes: Fire Alarm Systems, Fire Alarms for Firefighters, and Incident Safety Officer Train-the –Trainer.

Saturday and Sunday classes are numerous. There will be classes on Leadership, Training, Honor Guard, Critical Incident Stress, Case Histories, Extrication, Firefighter Hazards, and much more. We will also be offering National Fire Academy classes Leadership I, Leadership III, Incident Safety Officer, PICO, and Politics and the White Helmet (New). We will also hear updates from the Fire Commission, State Fire Marshal, and Homeland Security.

There will also be meetings of the Kentucky Fire Commission and the Kentucky Firefighters Association.

We are already receiving registrations for our Saturday Evening with the Vendors and expect our biggest turnout ever. We will also be doing some different things with the vendors so look for those announcements in the coming months.

Watch our various media outlets for the most current information. We can be found on the web at www.sfartarea3.org or find the Green River Firefighters Association on Facebook.



Notes From Fireman Joe

Since this will be the last Smoke Signals Edition for 2012, wondering where 2012 went, am looking forward to 2013 with much expectations, hopes, dreams, safety and much success for all our Emergency Service Brothers and Sisters. I was looking over the news clips from the National Fire Academy Fallen Firefighter Ceremony held this past October. I still get cold chills when I hear those Bag Pipes and Drums, see all the many fire depts attending but also saddened by the faces of those who have lost loved ones during the past year. I was so very happy to hear we did not have a Line Of Duty Loss of Life for our ceremony held in Frankfort and would love to see the ceremony at the Fire Academy doing the same. I must tell you, there are two places that I have been that move me beyond anything I have ever experienced, they are the Memorial at the Fire Academy and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC. The moment you step on those grounds you know immediately where you are and how sacred those places are. My hopes for all my comrades in the Emergency Service are that Everyone Goes Home.

With the holiday season upon us I trust our Fire and Life Safety Professionals are encouraging their communities to practice safe Holiday Safety Practices. The Stambush Family has so much to be Thankful for this Thanksgiving. I know you share my thoughts and hope your Thanksgiving Meal was as special as ours. And here comes Christmas, unpack those boxes of stored holiday ornaments and decorations but make sure all is safe and working. It might be the year you need to replace those old frayed and worn out strings of lights and decorations? Use caution with those extension cords, if you need to use them be sure they are heavy duty and well dispersed around outlets and plugs. Remember all the safety things we have talked about with Christmas Trees, like keeping them watered or away from heating equipment and fireplaces. When you go to bed or leave your home be sure to turn off all decorations and lighting.

Use candles with care, especially watch the little ones, no matches or lighters and kids remind Mom and Dad to blow out the candles before go-

ing to bed or leaving the house.

Special wishes to all my friends and colleagues for a Blessed Christmas with family and friends, a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all and as always Stay Safe! GOD BLESS!

Fireman Joe

NEW LAW REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TESTING FOR ALL CAREER KENTUCKY FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATES

Versailles, KY – Beginning **January 1, 2013**, all career firefighter candidates will be required to undergo a physical ability test.

The candidate physical ability test (CPAT) will be designed to assess a candidates' ability to handle the physical demands of fighting fires and shall include exercises that stimulate the most common tasks involved in fire suppression.

Exercises for the CPAT will include, but are not limited to: stair climbing, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise and extension, forcible entry, search, rescue, ceiling breach, and pull.

The Kentucky Fire Commission will charge a fee of \$125 for all out-of-state firefighter candidates participating in the CPAT. In-state participants will not be required to pay a fee.



KFC/ SFRT Hires New Employee



Christine (Tina) Briggs has accepted the position of Office Support Assistant in the central office of the Kentucky Fire Commission, effective October 16, 2012. She will be working with the Federal Surplus program.

Tina lives in Lexington, Kentucky and possesses a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and was a collegiate volleyball player from Arizona State University. Tina has been associated with education in Kentucky and Arizona for sixteen years. She has recently served as a Support Staff Associate for the Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Kentucky. She has also owned and operated her own business in Arizona before moving to Kentucky so her daughter could attend UK. Please welcome Tina to the Kentucky Fire Service.

Pike County Firefighters Association From the Desk of the President

I wish to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation for the outstanding job President and Mrs Van Taylor did on our conference in Lexington at the end of July. The conference was the culmination of a challenging year of work by the KFA and represented hard work and dedication by the Central Kentucky Firefighters Association.

I wish also to extend a big congratulations to our newly appointed President Sam Stacy from right here in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to be more specific good old Hazard which is about 65 miles away from Pikeville.

There is a lot of hard work going on here in Eastern Kentucky. We just finished up the 23rd Annual Pikeville / Pike County Fire and Rescue School which was held the first weekend after Labor Day. We had a real good fire school this year thanks to Greg Gray and state SFRT staff and Cheryl Fannin from the Area 11 SFRT area office. This year we had SUPPORTING HERO'S Mrs. Shannon Adkins with us for the whole weekend her first time to the mountains and she said she will be back for sure. Then we had the pleasure of hosting the Kentucky Chapter of Fire Chief's Assoc board meeting thanks to Danny Castle for holding their meeting here and hopefully it become an annual event with the fire school.

As we were planning classes for the school and thought we had them all picked out Greg added 2 New classes to Friday nights schedule and they proved to be well attended and liked by everyone who took them. They were "Courage to be safe" and "Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma." These were two great classes and all were full.

A couple other new classes that were added were NFPA Hybrid Vehicle Safety and Managing School Bus Emergencies.

Our school was well attended with around 450 students in classes for the three day weekend. We also had our own version of the Scott's Firefighter Challenge and it's called Pike County Toughest Firefighter Competition. We have a lot of fun with this. It takes place on a Friday evening with our special MC Mr. Dale Dobson who comes up and takes over the microphone duties and gets the kids motivated to do their very best at this competition. We are so proud of everyone that ran in it and in the next newsletter I will have the results. We do have two teams that went to the finals of the Scott's Firefighter Combat Challenge in Myrtle Beach the 11 thru 17, 2012. They are Pikeville FD. and Belfry VFD. Well I will close now in saying be safe out there folks

and watch each other's back. May God bless you till my next article.

Randy Courtney

Kentucky Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention

By Pat Thompson

My first year as the full time Recruitment and Retention Coordinator has been an extremely busy one, traveling the Commonwealth from one end to the other on a regular basis. Departments call daily, expressing needs for assistance in one way or another. Let me take this opportunity to tell you about a few of my travels and what we have to offer.

We have logged many miles this year while attending numerous conferences, fire schools, fairs, and other events. We have taken the History and Recruitment Trailer for display at all of these events at locations across the state. We make an attempt to be at any function if scheduling permits. We are currently undertaking the task of the "Extreme Make-over Trailer" event. We are beginning to remodel and renovate the History and Recruitment Trailer. When completed, we hope to have a display that all Kentucky firefighters can be proud of and participate in. The Kentucky Fire Commission is instrumental in this endeavor. We have received several items from many individuals and departments reflecting the history of our service. If you are interested in helping with donations for this project, please feel free to contact me at one of the locations below.

We have developed a set of recruitment posters available to your department. These can be personalized to your efforts and distributed in your communities to assist in your recruitment efforts. We will have these on display at fire schools and other locations for you to see. Again, contact me if your department is interested.

We are also in the early stages of talks about producing a statewide recruitment video. This video will cover the entire state and hopefully will fairly depict our demographics and cultures. I am quite sure this project will require a lot of time to produce, so it may be a while before completed.

As you can see there is a lot going on behind the scenes. If your department needs my assistance, please feel free to contact me at 888-306-8015 or by e-mail (preferred method) at pat.thompson@kctcs.edu. Be safe and look for those volunteers!!

COURAGE TO BE SAFE

www.everyonegoeshome.com

Chief Marc A. Muench, EGH State Advocate

marc.muench@florence-ky.gov

Cell 859 991-0721

I am very happy to announce that the CTBS program has received funding for another year. As you are probably aware, programs such as these are fading fast, so it is extremely important that you take advantage of them while they are here. Use the CTBS programs to teach firefighter health and safety within your region, within your county and most importantly within your department. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's "Everyone Goes Home Program" has had some major changes, most specifically to "Courage to Be Safe." Now all CTBS information can be accessed from one website: <http://ctbs.everyonegoeshome.com/>. Want to find a class? Want to take a class on line? Want to become a CTBS Instructor? All this and many other resources are now available with the touch of a button. It doesn't get much easier than this and I encourage you to make sure that every member of your department is aware of this site and if you are in a position to do so, have all of your firefighters take the CTBS class.

Over the last several years the fire service has seen some meaningful decreases in the number of firefighters killed in the line of duty. As of November 7th, of this year, there were 67 reported LODD. I believe that a major reason for this decrease is our attempts to better train our people in health and safety. The CTBS program is part of that education process and I ask all of you to live by its "16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives" in keeping yourself and your fellow firefighter safe.

As announced earlier this year, I am stepping down as the Kentucky State Advocate for the EHG program. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity for the last nearly four years. I have met some incredibly dedicated people from across the entire country who sincerely care about you and your families. They have put together an excellent program however it is up to you to utilize it. I will remain available and at your service if you need any information or assistance. Assistant Chief

Tim Brumfield from the Danville Fire Department will be taking the lead from here and will be at your service in continuing to keep Kentucky firefighters safe. A wish and prayer for all of you is to "Keep Going Home, After Each Run and After Each Shift." Stay Safe.

A Code Moment...

Rather than an article this issue, I'd like to notify everyone of the upcoming meeting of the KY Fire Inspectors Association at the KY State Fire Marshal's Office, 101 Sea Hero Blvd., Suite 100, in Frankfort on January 16th at 1 pm in the Conference Room.

This association is not just for firefighters with that job description, but is an opportunity for anyone that has a responsibility for life safety in commercial and assembly occupancies. This could include Fire Chiefs, suppression firefighters and building inspectors. The Association addresses the specific concerns of fire prevention through code enforcement and provides a forum for problems that the fire service in the Commonwealth can address together.

We also network with the State Fire Marshal's Office and use this to enhance training and coordination of inspections performed across the state. Our Elizabethtown Fire Inspectors strive to ensure that each business person, or whoever is responsible for a commercial or other public building, is treated fairly under the fire code. The lessons learned on these inspections can be shared if we have the opportunity and the KY Fire Inspectors' Association is another way that can be done more effectively and easily.

Please join us in January for this informational meeting.

Rusty Todd (City of Elizabethtown) for Robert Krebs, (City of Florence Fire Department) – President, KY Fire Inspectors Association

Cyber Theft and Smart Phones

By Bill Tricarico

Senior Risk Management Consultant

Emergency Services Insurance Program

We've all heard so much about Cyber Theft and how important it is to secure the information on our computers, but what about your cell

phone? Today's "Smartphones" make it easy for you to store a great deal of information which is vital to your life as well as your organization yet many times these phones are not treated with the same care as computers. A recent research study conducted by Javelin Research indicated that smartphone users are 33% more likely to become a victim of identity theft than non-users. That same study found that 62% of smartphone users do not use password protection allowing anyone who finds or steals their phone to have access to its contents.

Smartphones often contain sensitive information such as addresses and phone numbers, passwords, account numbers, email, voice mail, and vital information pertaining to your organization. Some of this information could be devastating to your department if it falls into the wrong hands.

Your Smartphone should be password protected or locked though a pattern code. If it is lost or stolen this could make the difference in allowing someone to see all of your information stored on the device. Read your owner's manual to learn how to properly lock your phone and treat the password as you would any other.

Next, be wary of apps you may download. Apps may be designed to track your location, read owner data, modify or delete your SD card content, and otherwise read or change stored information. Before downloading an app, make certain you know what it can and will do. Review the information about the app and what permissions you grant.

At some point in time you may want to upgrade your phone, but then what do you do with the old one? There are many options for unwanted cell phones such as recycling, donating, reselling, or simply disposing. But what about your information? You wouldn't just throw out a laptop computer without wiping the hard drive clean, but many people don't think twice about their smartphones. Simply deactivating the phone does not remove vital information.

Before disposing the phone remove the subscriber identity module (SIM) card. Even with this card removed however you will most likely have to do more to erase all of the sensitive data from the

device. You can seek assistance from the owner's manual for the phone or from your service provider. Manufacturers' websites also sometimes provide this information.

Smartphones are an important organizational tool today and should be treated as such. While you depend on and use your phones so often, the security issues in-volved are not considered and yet the ramifications of information compromise could be devastating to your organization.

FOR SALE

Lone Oak Jeep For Sale

The Lone Oak FD has a 4-wheel drive 1977 Jeep with dual rear tires that's in good condition for sale. It has a 100 gal water tank, 50' 3/4" booster reel, 6hp Briggs engine on a Davy hi-pressure pump, 6 cyl engine w/ 5,284 miles. We'll sell for best offer over \$2500.

For more information contact Jim Johnston or Larry Freeman at 270 554-5843





KFA Legislative Report

Since the last meeting I have been asked as to explain if possible what all the



information is that I have sent out to the fire service. I will make an attempt but this is not the final decision, and I think as I stated when we began that we will not know until December. We will have to be on our toes through the upcoming legislative session and try to protect as much of the benefits we have enjoyed in the past as possible. I know that we have sent out tons of information to many of you or you received it through other sources but I didn't want to keep anything from anyone. Because I wanted everybody to see the amount of information that we must read during the time this issue is being discussed. Also I want to make sure that everyone had the chance to be more informed on the issue to talk to your Legislator.

I have set through the hearings and the Pew Group has recommended that changes be made to the pension system that will affect all members of the system in some way. I think we are down to the following changes;

- Closing the funding gap
 1. Changing the contribution schedule
 2. Suspending the cost-of-living adjustment
 3. Issuing bonds
 4. Changing the contribution policies
 5. Taxing retirement benefits
- Options for a New retirement system
 1. Kentucky needs a new retirement system that is affordable, sustainable and secure.
 2. The current system's costs are neither transparent nor predictable.
 3. The current system is heavily back loaded, meaning that workers that change careers will not be put on path towards a secure retirement.
 4. Both the cash balance and stacked hybrid plan could provide a retirement benefit comparable with the Tier3, share risk between employees and taxpayers, and put workers that switch careers on a secure path to retirement.
 5. Cash balance and hybrid plans both have transparent and predictable cost.
 6. It is important that the task force either pick one of these plans or identify an alternative approach to ensure that benefits being offered to future workers can provide retirement security while remaining affordable to Kentucky taxpayers.

To explain what this means is that everyone in the system, retired, active and future firefighters will see changes in the current system. For retirees there

will not be a cost of living adjustment until the system reaches some level of funding. The reason that I say some level is because that has yet to be determined by this committee but I look for nothing less than 80% funding and that will not happen for a very long time or never! For active members they will see their contribution increase by as much as 2%. For future employees the system is about to change to a new system one that will not pay benefits as much as members receive today and having members work longer.

We must wait until the next Pension Task Force meeting before we have the final answer to what the future for firefighters and public employees is going to look like, but it will mean less for all! I have also been asked about and have posted to the news section of the KFA Website (www.kyfa.org) a copy of the KACO's plan that would set up another board and the issues that they have raised. I can't take position for or against their plan because we have to wait until we see what the Task Force comes up with. We have to do what is best for the firefighters and those affected by the changes. I can report that the KPFF through the IAFF are at this time doing an actuary analysis and will be informing us of the best options for the future firefighters.

I hope that this information helps and we will be trying to keep everyone up to date on the information as we receive it. If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

Remember when the Legislature goes into session in January we may need YOU to contact your local legislator in a hurry. You can find your legislator at <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/Legislators.htm>. Become familiar with those that represent you. Talk to them and let them know you care and are concerned about Kentucky's future. We will post information on the website just as soon as it is available. Check it often! Get involved!



Division of Forestry Tests New Forest Fire Reporting System

Lynn True

11/9/12

As fall forest fire season comes to an end, fire management staff with the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) will be busy assessing the effectiveness of a new internal reporting system that allows employees to identify and map forest fires in 'real time'. The web-based reporting system, officially titled the Kentucky Forest Fire Reporting System, not only allows KDF dispatchers to enter new forest fires

as they are reported, it enables all KDF employees to quickly access useful maps and daily fire conditions.

“Wildfire reporting helps assess wildland fire issues such as the location of the fire, the cause, the number of acres involved and the status of suppression efforts,” said Steve Kull, Assistant Director for KDF. “We still have a few procedural bugs to work out, but being able to evaluate our wildfire suppression efforts as fires occur will enable the division to better protect life and property.”

“The new system will not only increase the efficiency of collecting and reporting the most up-to-date information about wildfires, it will be a useful tool in determining fire suppression efforts,” said Kull. “The various layers of the maps allow our personnel to assess terrain, slope, roads and other critical factors in fighting wildland fire.”

Prior to the new reporting system, it was difficult for KDF employees to keep current on all the fires occurring across the state. Collecting information about current forest fire activity often involved numerous phone calls and e-mails between the Frankfort office and the district offices. Furthermore, relaying accurate information to the media and the public was often compromised during times of heavy fire activity.

“From a fire manager’s perspective, this is an incredible tool that will allow our agency to receive updates on fire threats as they are occurring,” said Luke Saunier, KDF’s Fire Management Chief. “Now we can look at the fire activity across the state and see exactly where our resources are needed the most.”

The concept for developing the system was initiated by Roy Boggs, KDF Geoprocessing Specialist and Tony Sturgill, Geoprocessor Principal for the Division of Information Services (DIS). Marvin Terry, DIS Information Systems Manager, developed the application through Microsoft SharePoint.

A map seen below in the new Forest Fire Reporting System shows fire activity in southeast Kentucky.



Maps can be ‘zoomed-in’ to show details of the terrain where fire activity occurs.



**NVFC Committee Report
Ken Knipper**

The NVFC Board meeting was recently held in Fairbanks, Alaska. Things are still moving slowly in Washington but Dave Finger is making his rounds on the following legislative efforts:

LOSAP, The Vol. Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention tax issue legislation, The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act has bipartisan support, The US Fire Administration Reauthorization Act has been passed, Public Safety Officers benefit changes now have support from all fire organizations, Volunteer Fire Assistance / Rural Fire Assistance has been suffering declines in funding and the NVFC is trying to keep the assistance up. The NVFC is working with other organizations to get the Medicare Reimbursement add-on payments extended. MedPAC recently announced they should expire. The NVFC supports the Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts that would allow a \$1000.00 tax credit to active members of volunteer fire departments.

There were some interesting programs covered at the meeting. MSA is offering volunteer incentive pricing on many products. Check www.EVsafetytraining.org regarding NFPA’s Electric Vehicle Safety training. Check the NVFC website to see the many items that can help your departments. Some of the material can be downloaded at no cost. They have a free revised Training and Resources Catalog. Fire Corps has a new Home Safety Checklist that can be used with your public education programs. Motorola Solutions Foundation has teamed up to offer free ISO Training. A course is already scheduled at the Kentucky Officers School on 2/23/2013. Stay tuned to the Fire

Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

<p>911 Fleet & Fire Equipment Frank Glowatz 11 Lendal Dr Florence KY 41042 877-605-2378 fglowatz@911fleet.com</p>	<p>Advanced Fire & Rescue Equip. Nick Gapinski 365 Persimmon Circle Booneville IN 47601 800-853-7675</p>	<p>Air Evac Lifeteam Donald Hare 418 Airport Road Danville, KY 40422 859-854-0081 haredonald@air- evac.com</p>
<p>Bluegrass Fire Equipment John Baker 780 Enterprise Dr Lexington, KY 40510 800-526-8393 Fax 859-233-1167 www.bluegrassfire.com</p>	<p>Bluegrass Uniforms Inc. Jason Colson 3533 Dahlia Way Bowling Green, KY 42101 270-842-7700 jason@bluegrassuniforms.com</p>	<p>Dove Designs Chris Hays 94 Horizon Loop Monticello KY 42633 888-377-4459 www.dovedesigns.com contact@dovedesigns.com</p>
<p>///EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT MIKE BRADY Res. Equip./Vehicles (859) 359-4502 (859) 359-4503 FAX http://www.EEResQ.com E-Mail: EEResQ@cs.com</p>	<p>Excellance, Inc. Thomas Pugh 453 Lanier Road Madison, AL 35758 800-882-9799 Fax 256-772-8792 www.excellance.com</p>	<p>FAAC Inc. Bill Martin 1229 Oak Valley Dr. Ann Arbor MI 48108 734-761-5836 Fax 734-761-5368 wbmartin@faac.com</p>
<p>Finley Fire Equipment 5255 N. State Route 60 McConnelsville OH 43756 800-545-3280 www.finleyfire.com rebersole@finlyfire.com</p>	<p>Fire Apparatus Division S.D.C. Bob Stark 8009 Beulah Church Rd. Louisville KY 40291 502-239-3120 sdcfire@iglou.com</p>	<p>Fire Department Service & Supply Co. Jay Trautwein 1902 Campus Place Suite 2-3, Louisville, KY 40299 800-321-6965 Fax 502-491-1487</p>
<p>Firecom Corporation Barry Jackson 7340 SW Durham Rd Portland OR 97224 800-527-0555 barry.jackson@firecom.com</p>	<p>Firovac/Reberland Larry Reber 5963 Fountain Nook Apple Creek, OH 44606 330-698-5322 firovac@yahoo.com</p>	<p>GRA-KAT Enviromental Andy White 50 Cherokee Dr, Shelbyville KY 40065 502-321-3110 andy.gra-kat@insightbb.com</p>
<p>High Tech Rescue Inc. James Riddle 2116 Frankfort RD. Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 502-633-0149 Fax 502-633-0659 james.riddle@insightbb.com</p>	<p>Hilliard Enhanced Learning Programs (HELP) Mike Hilliard www.4-help.org sales@4-help.org 888-504-4357 Fax 502-532-0800</p>	<p>Insti. for Preventive Strategies Jessica Melton 2292 South Hwy 27 St 300 Somerset KY 42501 606-677-6000 jmelton@centertech.com</p>
<p>KBEMS Bob Hammonds 300 N Main St. Versailles KY 40383 866-975-2367 Fax 859-256-3128 kbems@kctcs.edu</p>	<p>Kenwood Communications Dave BandKamp, 2060 E. Harbor Road Port Clinton OH 43452 419-734-4200 info@greatlakescomm.com</p>	<p>KY Emergency Management Charlie O'Neal 100 Minuteman Pkwy Frankfort, KY 40601 502-607-1601 charliem.oneal@us.army.mil</p>
<p>Landmark Chiropractic Dr Cole Bergeson 204 Bevins Ln Suite D Georgetown KY 40324 502-868-6008 landmarkchiro@yahoo.com</p>	<p>MapSync Tim Fields 149 Main Street Pikeville KY 41501 606-432-9188 tfields@mapsync.com</p>	<p>National Fire Sprinkler Assn. Ron Brown 1615 Cypress Spring Dr. Ft. Wayne IN 46814 845-661-6534 brown@nfsa.org</p>
<p>On Duty Depot/MPH Ind. John "Red" Noblitt 1040 Mosley St Owensboro, KY 42303 270-685-6423 red@shopmph.com</p>	<p>Orr Rapid Response Michael Kidwell 11601 Interchange Dr Louisville KY 40229 502-494-3687 Fax 800-800-6774 michaelk@orrcorp.com</p>	<p>Paul Miller Ford Inc./ Upfitters Brad Ferguson 975 East New Circle Lexington KY 40505 859-255-4242 bradferguson@paul.millergmline.com</p>

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<p>Scott Health & Safety Tim Divine 119 Lakeridge Dr Richmond, KY 40475 859-353-5017 tdvive@tycoint.com www.scotthealthsafety.com</p>	<p>Summit Fire Apparatus Joe Messmer 11 Sperti Drive Edgewood KY 41017 859-331-0360 jmessmer@summitfireapparatus.com</p>	<p>Super Vacuum Mfg Command Light Tim Hodgson 3842 Redman Dr Fort Collins, CO 80524 970-290-2532 timh@supervac.com</p>
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 Editor Woodrow Will, 46 N Sunset Ave, Cecilia, KY 42724-9782
 Phone 270-766-9946 or E-Mail at woodrow.will@kyfa.org

The Deadline for February issue submission of articles is January 10, 2012

(NVFC Continued from page 13)

Commission and KCTCS for additional information.

The new EMS/Rescue section continues to develop. The Executive Committee had previously added a representative from the NAEMT. The decision has been made by both parties to move the representative to the EMS/Rescue Section Executive Committee as this will provide better input directly to the Section.

Raves continue for the Junior Firefighter Recruitment Program video. Check the NVFC site www.nvfc.org/juniors to download the video.

I have attended two important meetings recently. One dealt with Community Para-medicine. This program is no longer a point of discussion but reality. There were fourteen different programs presented. I came away feeling there is great opportunity for those who embrace this program.

At the second meeting I represented the NVFC who is a member of a special "Coalition" that is attempting to improve the availability of medications to protect emergency responders. Thousands of dollars of drugs are being discarded every day that are still effective and could be used to protect

emergency responders from various chemical and health issues. A representative from a drug company made a statement that expiration dates on medicines is a misnomer in that they have some drugs stored since 1936 that are still very effective. The group is prepared to present its position to congress.

A few items of interest:

Ventlab is recalling their manual resuscitators as they may not be providing enough air through the inlet valve. If you are using one of these, contact the company.

The National Counter Terrorism Center has released a document regarding IED targeting of emergency responders

November 15th is Rural Health Day. You may want to conduct some public information programs on that day.

I consider an honor to represent Kentucky's firefighters at the national level. If you have any questions or ideas, don't hesitate to let me know.

If you have any questions or comments please address them to ken.knipper@kyfa.org. Have a safe holiday season.

Ken Knipper