

## GREENE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

### A BRIEF HISTORY:

In 1889, when the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association was established, fire departments were few and far between. Some of the men felt that there was a need for an organization to give support to these companies. The first President was George H. Scott. Early records are not available so we do not know who did the organizing. The first records show that at the 1907 Annual Convention, 5 vice presidents were elected and that the membership was 160 with a balance in the treasury of \$52.25. By 1930, the membership grew to 450.

In 1931, the convention was held in Coxsackie and a big discussion was held regarding what will be done when there are no more volunteer firemen (volunteerism was fading).

The first Greene County Day at the Firemen's Home was held on October 27, 1935. The year was 1941 and fire equipment in Greene County was inadequate; in 1942, there was no convention because of WW II.

The association went on record for favoring a county mutual aid program, a fire coordinator (Elmer Young, Bruce Borwegen, Ronald Garrison, Robert Darling and John P. Farrell, Jr. have held this position) and a fire advisory board. By 1952, the treasury had grown to \$1,623.65 with a membership of 535. In 1958, 31 fire companies and organization had joined. In 1958, no one came forward wishing to host a convention until Hunter accepted.

The parade rules and regulations were read and reread in 1963 before approval was given. In 1968, the position of Financial Secretary was added and the first Past President's dinner was held in 1969. By 1970, the membership was 703 and 196 people attended the Past President's dinner (largest attendance was 250 in 1973).

The Booster Line, a newsletter dedicated to the volunteer fire services in Greene County, was started in 1970 and continues to 2006 with few interruptions. Judith Rhodes, Dorothy Jennings, Kandi Davis, Margaret Feml have held the position of editor.

In October of 1973, the first Drill Day was held in Palenville and has continued each year since. The membership was 937 in 1977 but dropped to 670 in 1980.

To celebrate 100 years of service, the association hosted the convention in Catskill.

Over the years many committees were added, among them Fireman of the Year, Scholarship, Guidelines and Fund Raising. The Past Presidents' dinner now includes the Ladies Auxiliary of GCVFA, Fire Police Association and Fire Chiefs' Association.

The membership now is 984 with over \$10,000. in the treasury to fund the events sponsored by the association such as Greene County Day at the Firemen's Home, Drill Day and the annual conventions.

Many changes have taken place over the years. The County now has a new Emergency Control office and will have a burn building and garage in the near future. Again, volunteerism is down; participation at the meetings is low and there are no hosts for future conventions. This year, the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association and Ladies Auxiliary are hosting the 118<sup>th</sup> annual convention.

## **2008-2009 Officers**

**President - Marilyn Schrader**  
**1st Vice President – Peter Bennett**  
**2nd Vice President – Michael Palmateer**  
**Recording Secretary – Linda Gaeta**  
**Financial Secretary – George Stacey**  
**Treasurer – Mitzi-Su Fremgen**  
**Chaplain - Fred Van Loan**  
**Sergeant at Arms – PJ Pugsley & Garth Walker**

## **2008 - 2009 Committee Appointments**

### **By-Laws and Guidelines Committee**

**Chair: Gary Goodrich**

John P Farrell Jr.  
Eugene Jennings  
George Stacey  
Marilyn Schrader  
David Sherman  
Peter Alberti

### **Steering Committee**

**Chair: Paul Van Valkenburgh**

John P Farrell Jr.  
Marilyn Schrader  
Carlos Sala Jr.  
George Stacey

### **Recruitment, Retention and Membership Committee**

**Chair: Linda Gaeta**

Mary Sheridan  
John P Farrell Jr.  
Dotty Jennings  
Paul VanValkenburg  
Marilyn Schrader  
George Stacey

### **Legislative Committee**

**Chair: Harold Rivenburgh**

John Farrell  
Vicki Dichian  
Ronald Garrison  
John P Farrell Jr.

### **Firemen's Home Committee**

**Chair: John P Farrell Jr.**

Paul VanValkenburg

**Resolutions Committee**

**Chair: Vicki Dichian**

Linda Gaeta  
Patrick Pugsley Sr.

**Auditing Committee**

**Chair: Dawn Smith**

Dolly Cavicchioni  
PJ Pugsley

**Fundraising Committee**

**Chair: Harold Rivenburgh**

Yale Frank Jr.  
Robert Schrader  
Tom Gonzalez  
Linda Gaeta  
Peter Bennett

**History Preservation Committee**

**Chairman: Gene Jennings**

**Nominations Committee**

**Chair: Carl Sala**

Richard Harty  
Peter Alberti

**Firefighter of the Year Committee**

**Chair: George Stacey**

Barry Feml  
John P Farrell Jr.  
Lou O'Conner

**Drill Day and Rules Committee**

**Chair: Charlie Fremgen**

Carlos Sala Jr.  
Connie Whitbeck  
Peter Alberti  
John J Farrell

**Ski Competition Committee**

**Chair; Kevin Lennon**

Joe Affronti, Jr  
Adam Goodrich  
Mathew Dwon  
John J Farrell  
James Robinson III

**Booster Line Committee**

**Chair: Dottie Jennings**

George Stacey  
Margarete Garvey  
**LAGCVFA**  
Maureen Murphy  
All Executive Board Members

**Fire Prevention. Day Committee**

**Chair: Charlie Fremgen**

Donna Gianola  
Mitzi-Su Fremgen  
John Wallace  
Lillian Aleo  
Terry Borwegen  
Connie Whitbeck  
Vicki Dichian  
Randy VanValkenburgh  
**LAGCVFA**  
Alison Rivenburgh  
Catherine Spring

**Scholarship Committee**

**Chair: Robert Schrader**

Dave Battini  
Mary Sheridan  
Peter Bennett  
**LAGCVFA**  
Faith McKenna  
Maureen Murphy  
Bonnie Pflegl

**Dress Parade Rules, Regulations and Parade Counters Committee**

**Chair: John Gasper (Counter)**

PJ Pugsley  
Tim Albright  
Carl Sala  
Harold Rivenburgh  
Manny Hotaling  
Tom Lackie  
Carl Sala (Counter)  
George Stacey  
Yale Frank Jr.  
Leon Goodrich (Counter)  
**LAGCVFA**  
Chair: Roberta Spring  
Kathy Gasper (Counter)  
Nancy Ferretti  
Diane Sala (Counter)

**Past Presidents Dinner Committee**

**2008 Chair: Michael Palmateer**

Patrick Pugsley  
George Stacey  
John P Farrell Jr.  
**LAGCVFA**  
Diane Sala  
Alison Rivenburgh  
Vickie Dichian

## **Greene County Firemen's Ski Competition Committee**

Date: February 11, 2009

Location: Hunter Mountain

Chair: Kevin Lennon

GCVFA Liaison: Peter Alberti, Marilyn Schrader, Peter Bennett

## **Greene County Day at the Firemen's Home**

Date: June 7, 2009

Host: West Athens Lime Street Fire Company

Chair:

GCVFA Liaison: Peter Bennett

## **Greene County Drill Day**

Date: June 14, 2009

Host: Town of Lexington Fire Company

Chair:

GCVFA Liaison: Michael Palmateer

## **Greene County Convention**

Date: September 8-12, 2009

Host: Town of Hunter Fire Companies/Departments

Chair: Edward Dibbell

GCVFA Liaison: Marilyn Schrader

## **Dates of Meetings and Events**

**Executive Board Meeting – January 29, 2009 - Emergency Operation Center – 7:30pm**

**Quarterly Meeting - February 5, 2009 – Cairo Hose Company -8:00 PM**

**Greene County Firemen's Ski Competition - February 11, 2009 – Hunter Mountain**

**Executive Board Meeting – April 30, 2009 - Emergency Operation Center – 7:30 PM**

**Quarterly Meeting – May 7, 2009 East Durham Fire Company – 7:30 PM**

**Horse Shoe Tournament at the Firemen's Home - Sunday June 7, 2009 – West Athens Lime Street Fire Company – 8:00AM**

**Greene County Day at the Firemen's Home - Sunday June 7, 2009 – West Athens Lime Street Fire Company – 2:00 PM**

**Greene County Drill Day – Sunday June 14, 2009 - Town of Lexington Fire Company – 8:00AM**

**Executive Board Meeting – July 30, 2009 Emergency Operation Center – 7:30 PM**

**Quarterly Meeting – August 6, 2009 Kiskatom Fire Department – 8:00 PM**

**2008 Greene County 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention - September 8-12, 2009 – Town of Hunter Fire Companies/Departments**