DUES and DON’Ts

After a year-long study, a new membership dues structure has been implemented.

One-EMT Proposal

SAFER Scholarship Winners

Think Pink
Turn Your Vacations into Donations

Do you currently book travel at websites like Priceline, Cheaptickets, or Travelocity? The Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters Association is proud to announce another easy way to contribute!

mcvfatravel.com

By booking your travel through the site, 40% of the royalties will be donated to the MCFVA. Now, when you book your family vacation or embark on a romantic cruise, you can also support the MCVFA.

MCVFA Travel is powered by the same websites you normally use to book travel - Priceline.com, Travelocity.com, Hotels.com and Cheaptickets.com - so you get the same great features and low prices!

Thank You for Your Support!

Please note the Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighter Association is not involved with your travel arrangements. When you book travel through mcvfatravel.com, you are dealing directly with the vendors just like you would on sites like Travelocity.com or Priceline.com.

On the site, you can take care of all of travel needs:

- Plane Tickets
- Hotels
- Cruises
- Rental Car
- Vacation Packages
- Weekend Escapes
- Travel Insurance
- Rail Travel
- Timeshares
- Apple Vacations
- Disney Vacation
- Sporting Events
- Concert & Theater Tickets
- Theme Park Tickets
- Golf Tee Times
- Passport & Visa Services
- Honeymoon Services
- Restaurant Reservations
- Flowers
- Foreign Currency Exchange
- Buy New and Used Cars
- Collette Vacations
- Golf & Spa Vacations
- And more!
To All Call/Combo/Volunteer Chiefs

If you received this issue of Smoke Showin’ and your members did not, your department is either in arrears on its dues or is not a member of MCVFA.

Please contact the vice president serving your area or the MCVFA office to become a member in good standing.

www.mcvfa.org

www.mcvfatravel.com
Interested in Being an MCVFA Officer?
Nominations Are Now Open

The Association Bylaws created the Elections Committee to oversee the entire elections process. Every April, the Elections Committee must notify the members of positions whose term of office will conclude on December 31.

Positions to be decided at the Annual State Meeting in October are:

President of the Association   Greg Dibrindisi of Hatfield is the incumbent.

Eligibility

• A candidate must be a duly elected sitting Vice President, a Past President or a sitting President eligible for reelection under Article 3 Section 2(a)
• In the event that no eligible candidate is able or willing to run for the office of the President, any member in good standing with a continuous membership in the Association for at least five (5) consecutive years may stand for election for the office of President provided that such member is a category B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6 or B-7 member.

Secretary of the Association  Cameron Dunbar of New Salem is the incumbent.

Eligibility

• Any Active Member of this Association who has been an active member in good standing for three (3) consecutive years is eligible to hold this office.
• A candidate must be a B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, or B-7 member.

Positions to be decided at Regional meetings held by September 20 are:

Region 1 Coordinator   Tom Rose of Rehoboth is the appointed incumbent. 2-year term
Region 2 Vice President  Vacant, the election is for the remaining year of the current term.
Region 3 Vice President  Gregg Silverio of Shrewsbury is the appointed incumbent. The election is for the remaining year of the current term.
Region 3 Coordinator    Vacant, 2-year term
Region 4 Vice President  Jason Connell of Williamsburg is the incumbent. 2-year term
Region 5 Coordinator    Charles “Butch” Garrity is the appointed incumbent, 2-year term

Eligibility

• Any Active Member of this Association who has been an active member in good standing for three (3) consecutive years is eligible to hold this office.
• A candidate must be a B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, or B-7 member.

This announcement opens the nomination process. Anyone interested in being a candidate for any of these positions, including incumbents, should express their intentions to the MCVFA office by July 1. The Elections Committee will then review all potential candidates to determine their eligibility and submit a slate of qualified candidates to the delegates and alternates by August 15.

If you have any questions about the election process or the duties of the various positions, contact the Elections Committee at elections@mcvfa.org or you may call Larry Holmberg at (413) 296-4247.
Everyone has heard the phrase “Revenue Stream.”
It’s a buzzword of the times.

Are there other revenue streams you can think of? A giant statewide bake sale would be nice, but impractical. Please let me know. We have no plans on a giant statewide bake sale or spaghetti dinner. Unfortunately, fire departments hold bake sales, pancake breakfasts, and spaghetti dinners to purchase much-needed equipment, something I have never seen our friends with blue lights do.

Greg Dibrindisi
President

Editor’s Note—
The third week of April 2013 was a tough week for 1st responders around the nation. We salute the all those units who responded to the Boston Marathon incident throughout the week. It doesn’t matter if you were fire, police, EMS, emergency management, or one several volunteer groups like CERT or MRC, or whether you count yourself a local, state, or federal official, from the initial bomb blast to the historic conclusion on Friday night, your professionalism makes us proud and humble to be associated with you.

The West Texas fertilizer plant explosion is something that could happen anywhere at any time. We mourn for our brother firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Our prayers and thoughts go to their families, their departments, and their communities.

Let us learn from both incidents so that we can be better prepared in the future.

Swimming in the Revenue Stream

Revenue Stream” is a phrase used in seemingly every household and business. In our business—a firefighter support organization—it is an extremely important phrase.

So where are our revenue streams? Our dues form a large part of them. However, we cannot fund the association’s activities on dues alone, even if we could double our membership size. Another income source is MCVFATravel. You might think this doesn’t exist, but sign onto MCVFATravel.com just like Expedia.com or any other travel site and we get a bonus. It’s not going to pull us up over the financial mountain of supremacy, but it helps.

Another revenue stream is merchandise. After you arrange your next vacation through MCVFATravel, outfit the family with MCVFA merchandise. Kevin Connolly is doing a wonderful job of organizing new merchandise and we now have pink t-shirts to help support cancer research. There are no boundaries on what future merchandise can carry the MCVFA name. Please contact us if you have any ideas; your suggestions are always welcome.

Then there is this wonderful magazine you’re holding in your hands. We are finalizing a contract with a vendor to increase ad sales, which will decrease the cost of printing. Should anyone of you have a private business in addition to your firefighting duties, please consider a business card (or larger) ad. I think many us would prefer to hire a fellow firefighter for work because we know how driven they are. For instance, my mechanic is a retired firefighter. My vehicle would be helpless without him. I don’t know any plumbers or electricians, but I could find one if I saw an ad in Smoke Showin’.

President’s Message

Everyone has heard the phrase “Revenue Stream.” It’s a buzzword of the times.

Are there other revenue streams you can think of? A giant statewide bake sale would be nice, but impractical. Please let me know. We have no plans on a giant statewide bake sale or spaghetti dinner. Unfortunately, fire departments hold bake sales, pancake breakfasts, and spaghetti dinners to purchase much-needed equipment, something I have never seen our friends with blue lights do.

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Let us learn from both incidents so that we can be better prepared in the future.
On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, the Joint Committee on Revenue scheduled a hearing on H.2644, An Act to Provide Call/Volunteer Firefighters with a Local Option Real Estate Tax Exemption. Chief Joe Maruca attended the hearing on behalf of MCVFA; however, the hearing was canceled at the last minute due to bad weather. The hearing was rescheduled until Tuesday, April 2, 2013, and Co-Chair Kevin Connolly attended the hearing and testified in favor of the legislation on behalf of the MCVFA.

H.2644 is legislation that would allow cities, towns, and fire districts to provide a real estate tax exemption of up to $2,500 per year for call/volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical technicians. This legislation is modeled on Home Rule legislation that the Town of Swansea successfully pursued in the previous legislative session.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, members of the Legislative Committee met at the statehouse for an informal visit with legislators. The committee members thanked the legislators for sponsoring or co-sponsoring our current legislative agenda and asked for their continued support in the upcoming session. On hand was Legislative Co-Chair Kevin Connolly along with legislative committee members Jason Edson, Ryan Cheney, and Mike Cupoli III. During the day we were able to speak briefly with Senator Bruce Tarr and Representatives Peter Kocot and Stephen Kulik. We also met the aides for Representatives Kimberly Ferguson, Anne Gobi, Brad Hill, Brad Jones, and Senators Ben Downing, Michael Knapik, and Anthony Petruccelli. Other legislators we wished to see were unavailable because they were in their districts. All in all, we were well received and the group felt the trip went very well.

Spring will see most of the MCVFA legislation getting its first hearing before legislative committees. We will be attending these and testifying on your behalf, as well as providing written reports and data supporting our legislation to state representatives, state senators and their staffs. As legislation progresses, you might get emails from the MCVFA (CapWiz) asking you to email your state representative or senator with a message asking for their help getting legislation moving. It is important that you send those emails. Messages from multiple constituents make a big difference in how much attention and effort a legislator puts into any particular legislation.

Chief Joe Maruca  
attorney at law  
Legislative Committee Co-chair

Kevin Connolly  
Legislative Committee Co-chair
particular legislation. In the prior legislative session, your emails to legislators proved critical to getting some bills passed.

**Ambulance Standards**

On January 1, 2013, the first minimum industry standards for ambulances took effect. They are known as NFPA 1917 (2013 edition), Standard for Automotive Ambulances. You can view the standard online at the National Fire Protection Association’s website.

For the moment, Massachusetts ambulances must still be built to the Federal Purchasing Standard known as the “Triple K” or “KKK” Standard. Regulations of the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) require all Massachusetts ambulances to follow the Triple K standard. While it is theoretically possible to construct an ambulance that meets both the Triple K Standard and the NFPA 1917 Standard, it is probably cost prohibitive. Until Massachusetts changes its regulations I would recommend that you use Triple K as the minimum standard for any ambulance you are purchasing (legally your ambulance must meet this standard), and use NFPA 1917 as guidance for any items that are not addressed by the Triple K Standard.

This situation creates a good opportunity to refresh our knowledge about industry standards verses laws and regulations. NFPA 1917 is an industry standard. It is not a law or regulation. You are not legally bound to follow it. However, as an industry standard, you could be held to the standard in a civil or criminal lawsuit unless you can demonstrate a compelling reason why you deviated from the standard. For instance, NFPA 1917 requires a yellow/red reflective chevron on the rear of the ambulance. You can choose to use a red, white, and blue reflective chevron on the rear of the ambulance. If a car strikes the rear of your ambulance, the driver of the car could claim in their defense that they didn’t see the ambulance and the lack of the yellow and red reflective chevron contributed (in part) to the accident. Therefore, if you had followed industry standards and used the NFPA 1917 prescribed chevron, the accident could have been avoided.

An industry standard such as NFPA 1917 can become law if a government adopts it as their law. Massachusetts has adopted as its law (through regulations under the Office of Emergency Medical Standards) that ambulances must meet the Triple K Standard. Law and regulations trump industry standards. If Massachusetts regulations required ambulances to have a blue/green reflective chevron (it doesn’t) then the NFPA 1917 requirement is irrelevant. Nobody can claim any negligence on your part for having a blue/green reflective chevron instead of the NFPA 1917 yellow/red chevron because the law doesn’t give you a choice about your chevron colors.

The Triple K Standard is a federal purchasing standard that the federal government created for the purchasing of ambulances for federal agencies. Many states, Massachusetts included, adopted the Triple K Standard out of convenience. It’s convenient for the state because the state doesn’t have to create and maintain a standard. It’s convenient for the ambulance manufacturers because they are following one set of legal requirements for the federal government and for their civilian and municipal customers in many states. Over the years, the Triple K Standard became the official and unofficial standard for constructing ambulances. Now, however, the federal government is adopting NFPA 1917 and will be abandoning the Triple K. It is my understanding that the federal government will continue to maintain the Triple K standard for the next two years for the benefit of states that legally adopted it (such as Massachusetts), to give them time to transition to NFPA 1917.

NFPA 1917 is already starting its first revision process in order to adjust the standard based upon early experience with it. NFPA is accepting public comments on the standard until July 8, 2013. You can suggest changes to the standard online at the NFPA website up until July 8. After that the Ambulance Technical Committee will meet in the Fall of 2013 to act on all of the public comments. It will take approximately three years for the first revised standard to take effect.

To view NFPA 1917 and to make comments on the standard go to the NFPA Website and choose NFPA 1917 from their list of codes and standards. To view a copy of the standard or make comments on it you will have to create an NFPA Account. There is no cost to creating an account, viewing the standard and submitting comments.

*Chief Joe Maruca*
Proposed One-EMT Regulation

In areas with populations of fewer than 10,000, two EMTs should not be mandatory during transport.

For those of us in small volunteer fire departments operating ambulances in the more rural parts of the state, runs are long and slow over narrow, winding, and often difficult road conditions. Such conditions can consume most, if not all, of the “golden hour”. Couple that with our smaller populations making volunteer EMTs less plentiful and it is easy to see that requiring two EMTs to transport a patient is somewhat counter-productive to our mission, which is to get the patient moving toward a higher level of care effectively and efficiently.

A recent run we experienced illustrates the time consumption problem. We were called to a residence in Middlefield (16 miles, 25 minutes) for a person who had knee and leg injuries from a fall. Time assessing, packaging, and removing the patient from a steep narrow hall took 15 minutes, and transport to the hospital (23 miles) took 35 minutes. On this day, we had two EMTs. Had that not been true then add another 15 minutes for a commercial ambulance to travel the extra distance from Pittsfield. Time is one of the most critical factors in patient care. Anything that impacts the timeline can complicate overall outcomes. Hinsdale also covers Peru and Middlefield.

While not all calls are this extreme in length, the point remains that the time spent assembling a crew is “wasted” if the second EMT does not materialize forcing a call for a commercial unit. Recognizing that we drop approximately 10 percent of our 225–250 medical calls per year because we lack one EMT, Hinsdale began a project (Senate Bill 1007) in cooperation with State Senator Ben Downing and State Representative Paul Mark to enact a regulation change allowing volunteer ambulance services in towns with populations under 10,000 to transport with one EMT and one first responder when two EMTs are not available. We are also reaching out to local and regional EMS leaders/management for their perspective and assistance. Through those EMS contacts we have learned that most states in the U.S. require only one EMT as part of a two-person transport crew. Our specific research into all other New England states and 10 others across the country support that statement. We are not reinventing the wheel.

Let’s face facts. Even with a crew of two EMTs, one is driving leaving only one for patient care. The revised regulation would not compromise the level of care, however, it would greatly improve the ability of rural volunteer ambulance services to render a more consistent level of EMS service. Additionally, it should be noted that many calls require an ALS intercept, which adds a paramedic to the crew.

Chances of change improve with more support and we would like to hear from other areas of the state with similar issues. We need to get other state legislators involved who will join forces with Senator Downing and Representative Mark in pressing for the regulation change.

For more information or if you’d like to join our project, please contact Richard Scialabba, Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department, at rbslas@verizon.net, or by phone at (413) 358-8471 (cell) or (413) 655-8648 (home).
## On Sale in May:

- **MSA LP Vulcan FireHawk**
  - 1997 Spec. ICM STC, Cyl.
  - $875.00
- **MSA HP Vulcan FireHawk**
  - 2002 Spec. PTC ExtendAire, ICM Tx, Quick Charge, HUD, Cyl.
  - $1,595.00
- **Scott 4.5 AP50**
  - $1,495.00
- **Scott 4.5 AP50**
  - $725.00

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Cities and towns are exempt from charges and paying Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for individuals working for them as on-call firefighters or on-call emergency medical technicians (EMTs), provided they properly and timely complete the required forms.

“On-call” means there is an agreement between the employee and employer that the employee will work on an as-needed basis with no set schedule of hours. Pertaining to on-call firefighters and on-call EMTs, in accordance with Chapter 151A, § 6A(5), wages earned by those working in this capacity on a temporary basis in case of fire, storm, snow, earthquake, flood, or similar emergency, and who are paid solely on a per incident basis, are exempt and cannot be included in determining an employee’s unemployment insurance benefit rate.

There are three critical actions a municipality must take to receive the exemption and to preserve its appeal rights on this claim as required by G.L. c. 151A, § 38(a).

- **Indicate the employee’s employment status as “still employed” and provide wage information on the Wage and Separation Information form (Form 1062) as requested.**

- **Write in the comments section on the form that the employee is an on-call firefighter or an on-call EMT paid per call or event (whether on a flat rate or hourly basis).**

- **Return the form within the ten days as prescribed by law to the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).**

DUA will process the returned Wage and Separation Information form. Checking the box next to “Still employed” will prompt a review of the claim and, once verified, these wages will not be included in determining the wage base of the claimant. If benefits are awarded and the municipality believes the determination was erroneous, the municipality must appeal the determination within the mandated time-frame.

During the benefit year, a claimant may need to “reopen” his/her claim due to a benefit year separation. In this circumstance the municipality will need to recertify that the claimant is still working as an on-call firefighter or EMT. It is important that you again return the wage and separation form sent to you to ensure that these wages will not be included and so you can preserve your appeal rights.
A woman at the Red Cross booth next to us commented on how the kids, as they entered the cafeteria area, would see the MCVFA booth with the merchandise set up across the hall, grab their parent’s hand, and drag them down to our display. The end result was sometimes favorable and they’d make off with some piece of MCVFA merchandise.

I then thought, “Perhaps if we sold pink T’s with the same logo as our gray shirts, we might be able to make it more attractive for the firefighter wives or girlfriends.” Discussing this at work, a co-worker mentioned that pink was the color that some cancer groups use. I then realized that perhaps we could sell the pink shirts and make a donation to a cancer group.

I wanted to make sure that any donation would be given to a group within the Commonwealth. I searched online for any group within the state and the first group that came up was the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC).

Since its inception in 1991 by a group of local women concerned by the alarmingly high rates of breast cancer, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) has focused on challenging all obstacles to the eradication of breast cancer. They advocate for dedicated research and resources to answer the difficult question, “What is CAUSING breast cancer?”

Thanks to the overwhelming response to their call to action, Massachusetts became the first state to declare breast cancer an epidemic. They believe that PREVENTION is the cure, and they aim to create change so that not one more person must endure this disease.

MBCC challenges the exploitation of breast cancer by corporations who reap enormous profits from the disease and/or whose products have...

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**Merchandise**

Gildan, 99% Cotton/1% Poly, T-SHIRT, Maltese Cross, Gray, MCVFA on back
(S – XL) $13.00 plus postage
(2X – 3X) $15.00 plus postage

Gildan, 100% Cotton, T-SHIRT, Maltese Cross, Navy Blue, Pre-Shrunk
(M – XL) $10.00 plus postage
(2X – 3X) $12.00 plus postage

MCVFA on back… (M – XL) $13.00 plus postage
(2X – 3X) $15.00 plus postage

Not Shown

Gildan, 99% Cotton/1% Poly, T-SHIRT, Maltese Cross, Pink
MCVFA on back…$15.00 plus postage
(2X – 3X) $15.00 plus postage

Portion of sale will go to the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition

MCVFA 16 oz. Coffee Mug…$8.00 plus postage

MCVFA Merchandise also has Men’s and Ladies Golf Shirts, Baseball Caps with MCVFA Logo, Sweatshirts, Decals, Pins, Patches, Helmet Stickers, Portfolios and Novelty Banks. We are currently working to get this on the website. In the meantime, to order any items, or for more info, contact merchandise@mcvfa.org
Fire Training Council

As most readers of Smoke Showin’ know, the MCVFA has two representatives on the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

The basic function of the fire training council is to oversee the fire academy and fire service certification program in the Commonwealth. Both of us have been active in the monthly meetings that take place at the fire academy in Stow, Massachusetts.

The council is comprised of representatives from the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors, Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Call and Volunteer Firefighters Association, Department of Conservation and Recreation (Bureau of Forest Fire Control), Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy, and members representing the citizens of Massachusetts. Most of the meetings so far have revolved around general business and operations of the fire academy, recruit program, and procurement of the Springfield fire academy by the State.

A couple of other items that have been discussed that would be of interest to the group are:

• The fire academy has mobile training trailers for which they would like more department utilization.

These include the SCBA maze trailer, Mobile Live-Fire Trainer, Diving Simulator, and the Command Simulator. The Fire Academy is sending flyers to the chiefs advertising these great training resources.

• A new mobile flashover trailer is being purchased for training at fire departments around the state. The current simulator will be refurbished and permanently located at the fire academy to support onsite training.

We typically meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the hearing room at the Fire Academy. These meetings are open to the public so anyone can stop in and listen to the meeting.

If anyone has comments, questions, or ideas regarding the Fire Training Council, please pass them through the MCVFA officers.

Jonathan Miller
Monson Fire Department

Kurt Ruchala
Groveland Fire Department

Think Pink

continued from page 11

carcinogens linked to breast cancer. As a result, MBCC advocates for increased resources to investigate environmental links to breast cancer that are present as a result carcinogens found in our air, water, soil, food, homes, cleaning supplies, personal care products, and other consumer products that are used in our households every day. They have won significant victories in their 20 years of operation, but there is still much work to do.

While on their website I found that NESN, Porter & Chester of Canton, The Thoreau Club of Concord, Mill River Winery of Rowley, and the Wellesley Middle School, as well as many individuals have made donations to this worthwhile cause.

Furthermore, studies have shown that female firefighters have an increased risk of developing breast cancer and the MCVFA represents a growing number of female firefighters within the Commonwealth.

In addition, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition has been around as long as the MCVFA. We have a similar task—PREVENTION—they for cancer, us for fires. It would also help promote both the Coalition and the Association through public relations.

The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is located in Rockland, Massachusetts and can be found online at www.mbcc.org. A portion of the sale of the MCVFA Pink Tee shirts will be donated to the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition and can be ordered at merchandise@mcvfa.org at a cost of $15.00 each plus postage. The shirts can be seen on the MCVFA Facebook page and are available in sizes Youth Large to 3XL.

send your training-related articles to
Larry Holmberg
PO Box 176 • Chesterfield, MA 01012
editor@mcvfa.org
Attention Members

Dues Restructuring

In February 2012, the Membership Committee took a look at membership costs and the dues structure of this organization. We found that it was costing us approximately $10 per member per year to produce Smoke Showin’ and an additional $1.44 for insurance per member.

As we continued to analyze our situation, we soon realized that we had to look at all options in order to balance our costs versus income in the membership area. First, it had been approximately 10 years since we last raised dues, so an increase was warranted. Second, in 2008, a bylaw was approved that waived dues for retired members. Since then the ranks of the retired have increased to the extent that in some departments there were more retired individuals than active. In discussions during the year at regional meetings, the idea was presented to create a “senior membership rate” that would be less than the active dues rate. Third, the Association re instituted a cap on dues for departments of more than 50 members, which affected approximately 10 departments statewide. When the economy was good this was not a concern, but after four years of what could be called a lacklust er economic situation, it was clear we could no longer continue this policy.

After much discussion at regional meetings and at the Executive Board level, a plan was conceived and presented at the October 2012 state meeting held at the Mass Fire Academy where it was passed by the membership of this Association. The new dues structure begins July 1, 2013.

Annual Dues are:
• $15.00 per year, per individual for B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-5 membership.
• $10.00 per year, per individual for B-7 members (retired).
• $5.00 per year per individual for B-8 Members (explorers and juniors) with a $50 cap.
• No cost for B-6 and B-9 members (life and military members).

The dollar cap for departments has been changed as follows:
For the purpose of assessing dues, payment of dues for the any individual member department shall be capped at
• 60 individuals beginning July 1, 2013
• 70 individuals beginning July 1, 2014, and
• Eliminated as of July 1, 2015

What should you expect?
The Committee will be sending three notices: 60 days prior to due date, 30 days prior to the due date, and a final notice 30 days after the due date. If dues remain unpaid by October 1, the member department will be suspended from all benefits. If dues remain unpaid, the department will be dropped from the membership role after one year.

We hope this will clear up many questions our members have had over the past two years. As the Membership Committee moves forward, we will look at other benefits we can provide to our member. If you have any question about membership, please contact membership@mcvfa.org or evp@mcvfa.org.

This organization has worked hard and long to fight for the things that help protect and better train the call and volunteer firefighters of Massachusetts. We thank those who continue to support us and we ask you to get involved. The MCVFA can accomplish many more things with your help and support. Please contact us at mcvfa@mcvfa.org or any of the officers of this organization.

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As we transition from spring into summer, I am reminded of the role we play as firefighters in educating and training not only our fellow firefighters but also the public. With the warmer weather, this is the perfect time to get out into the community and share our knowledge with the citizens of your city or town. There are many ways we can do this: safety days, open houses at our fire station, and mock accidents for our high school juniors and seniors immediately come to mind. These programs can be held in conjunction with your police department or be done jointly with a neighboring department.

Speaking of training, I am working with our training committee to secure the Bullex Fire Extinguisher trainer for our region for sometime this summer. I will send out an email informing you of its availability and for how long we have it. My goal is to get this great training tool to as many of you as possible. If you were at our meeting last October in Rehoboth you know firsthand what a great tool this is.

Rehoboth Station 2 Firefighters Association hosts a fundraiser once a month at their station located at 333 Tremont Street in Rehoboth. On March 16, I was able to attend their Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and it was by far the best Corned Beef dinner I have ever had. If you came to the region meeting they hosted in October then you are aware of the quality meals they are capable of producing. For information about their functions, go to the Rehoboth Station 2 Firefighters Association Facebook page. If any other companies sponsor any events like this please let me know and I will make sure you get the recognition that you deserve.

Just a reminder that membership dues notices were sent out in April and that payments and rosters need to be returned by July 1. These notices were sent to the registered Fire Company Delegate. Reminders will be sent out in May. Delegates and Alternates, please make every effort to pay this in a timely manner. I am being told form the Membership Committee that leniency that was seen the past will not be shown this year. As I have said before and will continue to say, the amount you pay for the benefits you receive is minimal. The insurance alone is a great deal for the coverage and I have not seen another agent that can match it. Moreover, the insurance is just one benefit that is available to you.

Working Fire Training is another benefit that is offered to all members of MCVFA. Unfortunately this is greatly underused. You can log into this via our website, just look for the Working Fire Training link on the lower right side of the MCVFA website. You will need a user name and password to gain access to the training library. If wish to receive the password and login information please contact me at vpreion1@mcvfa.org

In closing I would like to congratulate the following two regional members on their receipt of the Fire Company of the Month Grants. First, Freetown Fire Department received the November 2012 Fire Company of the Month Grant and will be using this money to refurbish a surplus military vehicle they plan to transform into a brush breaker. The second is to Fall River Fire Department Special Service. They received the February 2013 FCOM Grant and will be purchasing a misting fan for firefighter rehab operations. Fall River Special Service is a group of highly dedicated volunteers that respond to all working fires in the City of Fall River and many surrounding communities. They also provide rehab services during the Massachusetts Fire Academy’s (MFA) Firefighter I/II Academy held at the MFA Fall River Training facility. Congratulations to both Freetown and Fall River on the FCOM Grants. If you have any questions on how to apply for a FCOM Grant or just simply need to know where to apply please contact me and I will guide you through the process.
although the menacing vapors originated from the same area that was pillaged nearly two years ago by a tornado, the ones generated this weekend were not weather-related and were, in fact, manufactured on site.

So what caused this massive influx of smoke on the region? A conflagration of a ranch-style home at 55 Haynes Hill Road.

Firefighters from Brimfield, Holland, Wales, Warren, and Sturbridge took advantage of the training opportunity on both Saturday and Sunday after the Shea family—former occupants of the property—had donated their home, which was irreparably damaged by the June 1, 2011 tornado to the Brimfield Fire Department. “We were able to save a lot of the things inside the house, but the house itself wasn’t salvageable,” said Chris Shea. Long before his family moved in, Shea said the basement of the over 40-year-old abode was once a location where goat cheese was produced.

Still wishing to reside in the town, he and his wife Michele moved their family of seven to a property they purchased on Harnois and offered up their house to the fire department.

“It’s a great opportunity for our firefighters to enhance their knowledge and work on their techniques under a real-life high-adrenaline situation,” said Brimfield Assistant Fire Chief Tom Brown. “It’s a win-win for both parties.”

For the first round of training, Brown said firefighters performed search and rescue drills, smoke and ventilation exercises and set controlled fires in different bedrooms throughout the house. Prior to any of the drills, items such as the oil tank, furnace, and vinyl siding from the residence had been removed to both increase the level of safety for those performing the training exercises as well as prevent potential contamination. After all of those drills were performed on Sunday, firefighters from Brimfield and Wales conducted a controlled burn of the ranch-style home.

As a precaution during the blustery day, the department had their forestry equipment on hand in case the wind picked up and in the end, it turned out that this was a good decision, as the wind ended up carrying a few embers and ashes across the road and down the hillside behind the 56 Haynes Hill Road property. While a group of firefighters monitored the continued burning of the foundation—which was reduced down to a chimney, fireplace and various piles of rubble and ash—two groups headed across the road to the two other fires that had ignited. Mutual aid support was provided by Holland with a truck and tanker and Wales with their forestry truck.

“We were very fortunate that we had our equipment on site and were able to get a very prompt and quick response to keep the 30-by-30 area wetted,” he said. “I think our firefighters have acquired a lot of knowledge on how to deal with fast-reacting situations like these after having dealt with the fires that burned nearly 50 acres of the neighboring Paige Hill Road.”
department during his last 13 years as chief. What hasn’t changed is the family bond between its members and their families. His wife of 44 years, Jackie, and his three daughters, Kathy, Jessica, and Pam, were also committed to the department. While sacrificing many holidays and other moments together, the family speaks with pride of his involvement and accomplishments within the department. Chief Lawton will officially retire at the end of the month. He has made a difference in many people’s lives and he has left his mark on the Town of Williamsburg.

The Town has been fortunate to have his expertise, time and service for so many years. We wish him many years of enjoyment with wife, daughters, and eight grandchildren.

A retirement party in his honor will be held on Saturday, June 22, at Turner’s Pavilion on Lawton Hill Road. Tickets are $25 per person and can be purchased later in May at the Williamsburg Snack Bar, the Williamsburg Pharmacy, or by sending a check—made payable to the Williamsburg Fire Fighter’s Association—to Williamsburg Town Administrator, PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039-0447. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 22, 2013.

Monson Spearheads Regional Fire Officer Training

The Monson Fire Department was very pleased to both host and be selected as an awardee of the 2012 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. On April 1, 2013 Commissioner Ed Lambert of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the grant recipients, surrounded by apparatus and equipment designed to combat forest fires. One week earlier the Monson Fire Department hosted another impressive showing of forestry equipment.

On March 27, 20 forestry units and 57 firefighters representing 16 departments, met in Monson for their monthly fire officer training. The March topic was wildland (or forest) fires. Chief Fire Warden David Celino of the DCR discussed state assets available for combating wildland fires, such as rotary and fixed winged aircraft. West Stafford Fire Chief Joseph Lorenzetti demonstrated mobile radio systems available to assist with communications when fighting fire in remote areas. The participants then reviewed all the regional forestry apparatus and equipment to ensure interoperability and to gain knowledge of the local assets available.

This is the second year of this regional fire officer training program and it has been very successful. As municipal budgets are strained, fire departments must rely on help from surrounding communities, known as mutual aid. Fighting is a personnel intensive operation in order to ensure both the safety of victims and responders. It is common to have two or three departments working side-by-side at even fairly small incidents. Many chiefs say their department’s success lives and dies by the hands of mutual aid. The regional fire officer training program was conceptualized to help fire departments work more cohesively and efficiently by training together, and was a direct result of lessons learned from the response to the 2011 tornado.

Firefighting is based on teamwork. Each fire department works well individually. By incorporating many communities, this training program has enabled chief officers to expand their teams from a couple dozen to a couple hundred firefighters. We are working together in ways we never have before. The continued success of this program is fed by camaraderie and the knowledge that we are now better prepared to face any situation than previously.

The participating agencies span three counties and two states. They represent Volunteer, Career, and Combination Departments including Bondsville Fire Department, Brimfield Fire Department, Brimfield Ambulance Service, East Longmeadow Fire Department, Hampden Fire Department, Holland Fire Department, Ludlow Fire Department, Monson Fire Department, Monson Emergency Management, Palmer Fire Department, Somers Fire Department, Stafford Fire Department, Stafford Ambulance Service, Three Rivers Fire Department, Wales Fire Department, Warren Fire Department, West Stafford Fire Department, and Wilbraham Fire Department.

MCVFA Grant Program Makes Forcible Entry Training Possible.

Hampshire County Fire Academy (formerly Hampshire County Fire Defense Training) recently sponsored a forcible entry class at Hadley Fire. The class, presented by Will Dering owner and operator of 10-75 Training L.L.C. of Cambridge, Massachusetts was funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association. The $800 grant provided a very unique opportunity for nearly 50 firefighters from the county. The Hampshire County Fire Academy hired 10-75 Training on the recommendation of Captain Robert Labrie from the Goshen Fire Department who brought 10-75 Training to the Goshen several months ago. 10-75 Training provides a heavy duty, reusable training prop that is indestructible even by firefighters. Additionally, the training provided an overview of “through the lock” techniques and a full complement of almost every lock imaginable.

Firefighters from 13 different departments challenged the forcible entry prop repeatedly. Forcible entry has always been “one and done” when forcing a door, allowing only one firefighter to get the full benefit of basic forcible entry training. Because the steel training prop provided by 10-75 Training is designed for repeated evolutions, all 50 firefighters were able to participate in forcible entry techniques for standard in-swinging, out-swinging doors, and forcing doors in tight quarters.

The grant was part of the ongoing grant program funded by and awarded by MCVFA. For more information on how your organization and community could benefit from the grant program visit the MCVFA at MCVFA.com

Bondsville Fire Gathers for Mock Emergency

By Emily Thurlow, staff writer, Turley Publications

Having the drive to risk one’s own safety to protect the lives of others takes a great amount of courage, but when it comes to the field of firefighting, possessing that desire fulfills only half of the equation; the other half includes training and education. And to fuel that need, firefighters from the Bondsville Fire Department got behind the wheel of their training vehicle recently when they participated in a motor vehicle fire exercise.

“Exercises like this one provide a real-life element to our training,” said Fire Chief Scott Gustafson. “With modern cars nowadays, there are so many hazards in them should they catch on fire, it’s important for our firefighters to be aware of the consequences.”

Although multiple safety precautions were taken prior to the controlled burn, including the removal of the gas-pressurized shocks, the gas tank, air conditioning coolant, antifreeze and more, the lit vehicle still provided the element of surprise to the 16 attending firefighters of the 26-member department, like when the air bags blew off midway through the blaze. He pointed out that the pressurized bumper shocks in particular could create a rocket-type of projectile, should it explode under the heated conditions.

“The biggest thing that everyone can walk away from this training with was safety. Whenever there’s a live fire, the primary concern is always safety, but on this exercise, firefighters also expanded their knowledge with hose-holding techniques, identifying spraying patterns and safe-area distances,” he said. “We want to keep everyone’s skill set sharp, because safe practices are vital.”

Firefighters also had the opportunity to utilize hand tools while trying to practice prying open the door and ensure that there were no hot spots, heat or ashes so that there was no possibility of reigniting.

After members had helped to load Gustafson’s former Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo with hay for the first evolution of training and Assistant Fire Chief John Sullivan had ignited flames, Lieutenant Paul Sigovitch smashed through a few of its windows to release some smoke and allow the fire to expand. From there, firefighters banded together in formation in their individual groups to knock down the fire.

Following a series of drills, once the vehicle had been extinguished for the final trial, members continued to work diligently to inspect its charred remains by forcibly opening the rear doors with some tools to ensure that the fire had been completely snuffed out.

“The training went very well. It was a great opportunity to prepare our members with real-life situations with a fun-type of goal that not only will keep our firefighters engaged and interested in their training, but prepare them as well for what they will potentially face in the future,” said Gustafson.

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News Around the Berkshire Region

Berkshire Volunteers Honored for Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts
By Andy McKeever, iBerkshires Staff
(Reprinted with permission from iBerkshire.com)

Seven county residents were honored recently in Dalton for their ongoing efforts in helping victims of Hurricane Sandy.

The MCVFA presented the group with certificates of appreciation at the Fire Station for not only bringing truckloads of donations down to Garritsen Beach and Breezy Point, New York, but also continuing to go there to help rebuild.

The group’s efforts had started as separate fundraising efforts. Lanesborough firefighter Glen Storie and his wife, Beth, watched the reports of the hurricane pummeling small towns like their own and immediately jumped to action in soliciting donations. They contacted the firefighters in Breezy Point and took four trailers of donations there.

Meanwhile, Richmond firefighter Chris Porter and his girlfriend, Jessie Markham, started collecting donations, too, but didn’t know where to send them. Another South County firefighter had just returned from Garritsen Beach and retold what he saw and what had missed major media coverage.

“Breezy Point got all the media coverage but Garritsen Beach got hit the worst,” Porter said.

Porter reached out to firefighters there and took down two trailers of donations. When Storie had too many donations and Porter had not enough, the two teamed up.

Since then, two weekends every month, a small group of firefighters and their families and friends have been going down to help out.

“We’ve seen them so much that we’re part of the community,” said Al Peckham, who even went there on New Year’s Eve to celebrate with the community and returned with tales of wild shenanigans. “We’re the only crew in Garritsen Beach that goes down on a regular basis.”

The core group consisting of the Stories, Porter, Markham, Peckham, Samantha Bruns and Debbie Storie have been there about eight times since the hurricane flooded the small community and continue to go twice a month.

“We haven’t even done half of the houses,” Markham said. While the first few trips mostly delivered donations, more recently they’ve been helping residential demolition.

A mixed group between seven and 10 of those volunteers and friends are there on a given weekend. Markham said the people are what keeps bringing them back.

“They are so appreciative down there and you don’t get that everywhere,” she said.

Markham expects the group will continue to go to Garritsen Beach throughout the summer to help residents rebuild. The Gerritsen Beach Fire Department collects residents’ names and needs and instead of hiring a contractor, the Berkshire volunteers do the work for them.

“We help those who can’t help themselves,” Peckham said, adding a lot of the community is elderly.

While the cameras and celebrities have all left since the day when the homes of thousands of coastal residents were destroyed, the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association has been watching the rebuilding efforts.

“They deserve recognition. They went above and beyond to help people,” said MCVFA Region 5 Vice President Paul Vallone. “We want to give them a thank you for all of their hard work.”

Vallone contacted the Association President Greg Dibrindisi with the idea and the recognition event finally came together Thursday.
Williamstown Fire Chief Sheds Light on Notable Blazes in Town History

By Michael J. Foster, North Adams Transcript
(Reprinted with permission from North Adams Transcript)

Ernest Imhoff perched on a third-floor ledge in only pajamas while fire roared through the Delta Kappa Epsilon house at Williams College.

The 20-year-old student, hobbled by his glasses being broken when he rushed from bed to flee, went back and forth between the sub-zero early morning air and the dangerous shelter of his room as firefighters below rushed to rescue him from the blazing 1898 structure.

Raymond Noble, other firefighters and Williams’ students tried to reach him with a 40-foot ladder, only to find it was just short of freeing the trapped man.

Noble lifted the bottom of the massive ladder and propped it against his chest, adding a few more feet to its span, and he and the rest held it steady while Imhoff shakily made his way down to safety. Imhoff fell some of the way, but suffered only frostbite and smoke inhalation from his ordeal.

The date was Jan. 6, 1959.

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These stories and more were shared with a crowd of roughly 60 over the weekend at the Williamstown Historical Museum as part of a lecture on the town’s notable fires by Williamstown Fire Department Chief Craig A. Pedercini.

“Noble and Ernie [Imhoff] later became friends,” Pedercini said to the packed room at the David and Joyce Milne Public Library on Saturday. “Ernie to this day writes letters of thanks.”

The program detailed what is known about the major fires Williamstown has seen, and Pedercini walked attendees through time from the Greylock Hall blaze of 1890 all the way to the 2007 Spring Street fire that claimed the building once home to Subway, the Perfect Blend coffee shop and the Purple Pub. The event was part of the museum’s annual series of talks on town history.

Though many of the tales ended with destroyed buildings or lost businesses, dire situations like Imhoff’s ended in rescue. The other sagas Pedercini touched on included:

• Lacking an aerial truck to fight structure fires from above, the local fire department often was assisted by North Adams’ department. However, in January 11, 1968’s fire at the Williams College Kappa Alpha fraternity, a McCarthy’s Tree Service truck came to the aid of the department with its aerial lift for pruning trees. This was one of many examples of the community at large pitching in to help battle blazes.

• When fire struck Pine Cobble School on January 25, 1970, the department had just bought an aerial ladder truck. The blaze at the school—then located on the current site of the Milne Library—demanded the new piece of equipment be put to use with unprecedented speed.

“We were just purchasing our ’69 LaFrance aerial,” Pedercini said. “It had just come into town a few days earlier and it wasn’t ours yet. You don’t just drive it. You have to test the aerial, perform a pump test, train on it.”

But a firefighter was sent to the Willows Motel—where the man who had driven the vehicle to town was staying—to deliver the message that it was time to put the truck to work.

In 1998, then-Chief Edward M. McGowan’s worst fear—a structure fire on densely developed Spring Street—came to realization when an electrical blaze broke out in the early morning of March 29.

Though out of town in Fitchburg when Pedercini and the rest of the fire department responded, “McGowan did not give his wife much time to get into that car” to return to Williamstown and the fire scene, according to Pedercini.

“I was there from Fitchburg before the electrical... continues on next page
company shut the power off,” McGowan, who was in the audience Saturday, said in response.

Seventy-two thousand gallons of water later, the fire had claimed six businesses and six apartments, but was stopped from walking down Spring Street.

Following the presentation, McGowan, who was chief from 1986 to 2002, said hearing the stories, many of which involved him, underscored the progress that has been made in equipment and training for firefighters.

“The difference in equipment is tremendous, not only with trucks and hose lines, but also firefighter protective gear,” he said. “You used to put on your gear at the truck on the scene, and some of these guys you saw, the jackets were down to their ankles. They were made of rubber when I started. Now they’re fitted, just like when you buy a suit.”

Pedercini, who has been chief since 2003 and joined the department in 1988, saw victories in some of the images of his presentation.

“It brings back good memories in a way,” he said. “No one likes to have a fire, but when you look back, you can say we had a lot of help from the community and mutual aid, and the end result is the fire went out. You might have lost the building, but you saved the next one. We pride ourselves on protecting property.”

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New Peru Fire Station Complete
By Josh Stilts, Berkshire Eagle Staff
berkshireeagle.com
(Reprinted with permission from The Berkshire Eagle)
After more than five years of budget proposals, grant applications and sometimes-contentious town meetings, the Peru Volunteer Fire Department finally has a building worthy of its members, according to Chief Eric Autenrieth.

Autenrieth, a 30-year veteran of the department, said the annual number of fire calls has nearly doubled from 34 when he took over as chief five years ago to 65 last year.

But even as the number of calls increased, the department’s volunteers continued to work out of outdated and inadequate quarters.

The new $550,000 building, which was completed last month, has four bays, one for each of the department’s vehicles, as well as a training and meeting room, and for the first time, a laundry room and bathrooms for the firefighters.

“We finally have a place to sit, bathrooms and now we can go on a call and come back to the station instead of contaminating our homes,” he said. “Every call we go out on we can be exposed to any number of blood-born pathogens, feces, HIV, hepatitis, suit, oils, and we’d have to bring that back to our homes because there was no place to properly clean our gear afterwards. These guys aren’t getting paid, so they should at least have a place to change after a call without having to contaminate their own houses.”

The previous fire house, built sometime in the mid 1950s, didn’t have access to running water.

It also didn’t have heat until 20 years after it was built so, during the winter, all the equipment and vehicles had to be put in storage and Peru residents had to rely on the Hinsdale Fire Department, said Autenrieth, who joined the department when he was 13.

Plans for the new 4,400-square-foot firehouse faced numerous challenges in recent years, and the project was nearly killed several times.

The initial cost of the project was estimated at $650,000, but it had to be scaled back after voters rejected spending on the project in the face of concerns about the plan.

Two years ago, residents voted to set aside $250,000 for the project with the idea that the remainder would be borrowed from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development program.

But when the project went before the voters asking for $650,000 the following year, with $100,000 to be covered by a grant, it was rejected because residents said there wasn’t enough specifics about the building plan.

“There’s no money for it.”

Autenrieth said uncertainty about the government’s application process prevented the town from further developing the building plans and incurring the associated costs.

“We had exhausted all other options,” he said. “We applied for grants, asked local and state politicians and the answer was always the same, ‘there’s no money for it.’ Even FEMA couldn’t help us get funding.”

The department was also denied funding through a national grant system dedicated to help fire departments. Instead of helping the 14-person crew finally get a viable building, the money instead went to the Los Angeles Fire Department to help it build its 34th and 35th stations.

“It was a difficult pill to swallow,” Autenrieth said. “I
understand the money needs to help the most people, but there’s already so many departments in that city and they’re full-time firefighters who get funded by the city’s taxes; we don’t.” Eventually a couple of contractors agreed to provide rough estimates of what the new station would cost and came up with $450,000. When the bid process was finished however, the lowest figure was more than $100,000 more, despite the lower cost of building materials.

“We were ready to give up,” he said. “There must have been 150 people who showed up for that meeting and I figured they were all against the project. How was I going to tell them we need even more money?”

Inside the packed Community Center room, Autenrieth spent about a half-hour answering questions about the project and probably would have continued to do so until a chant began at the back of the room. The chant, “vote, vote, vote,” was mild at first but quickly enveloped the room. The resolution passed resoundingly by more than 100 votes.

Now, instead of having to walk sideways around the vehicles crammed 8 inches from the door, each can be worked on and has more than a 3-foot buffer between the others. Park improvements

A park at the rear of the parcel, containing a basketball court so uneven you couldn’t dribble a ball, will soon be converted in a parking lot and the Peru Recreation Association has already set out plans to improve the park, baseball field, and activity area, Autenrieth said.

The old station and the building will be returned to its previous owner, the Dewkett family, who plan to turn it into a storage facility.

“It still feels like we’re going to someone else’s department,” he said. “But we couldn’t be happier.”

Alert Hose Company and Lanesboro Fire Department Awarded Fire Company of the Month Grants

At the March 28th Region 5 meeting, the Adams Alert Hose Company and the Lanesboro Fire Department were presented with Fire Company of the Month grant.

The Adams Alert Hose Company was awarded the January 2013 Fire Company of the Month Grant and will use it to purchase ANSI-compliant raingear for their 35 members. This raingear will be used at incidents that do not require full turnout gear, but do require a visibility to motorists consistent with the latest safety requirements for roadway operations.

The Lanesborough Fire Department was awarded the December 2012 Fire Company of the Month Grant and will use it toward the purchase of lighting for their forestry equipment as well as two radio vests. The grant will provide the majority of the firefighters in town with their own lights, and the radio vests will accommodate the many radios needed in Berkshire County for effective fireground communications.

Lanesboro Firefighters Attend National Training

The Lanesborough Volunteer Fire Department is proud to announce that Fire Captain Max LaCasse and Firefighter Jon LaCasse recently attended the prestigious Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings Class in Socorro, New Mexico. The class was held from March 5–8. Train the Trainer format their attendance was funded by a combination of National and Western Regional Homeland Security funds. Max and Jon were among 40 emergency responders allocated from the four western counties in Western Massachusetts selected to attend the school.

The classes involved gaining knowledge of a variety of explosive devises and observing a number of explosive devices being detonated and observing the impacts. Max and Jon attended the training with responders from throughout the country with a large contingent emanating from Chicogo, Illinois, Texas Fire Marshals, and New York City Police Departments.

The training was held in the Train-the-Trainer format and Max and Jon are eager to share the knowledge they have gained with the dispatchers, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians of Berkshire County. Max and Jon can be contacted for further information at Max@Lanesboroughfire.com (413) 212-1733 or Jon@Lanesboroughfire.com (413) 281-0534. The information can serve to assist responders in remaining safe by expanding their awareness of potential hazards.

Submitted by Deputy Fire Chief Charles “Butch” Garrity. Deputy Chief Garrity may be contacted at ButchGarrity@yahoo.com or (413) 684-4405.

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Hinsdale’s Mass Fire Academy Rural Water Class 2013
*Photos by Dalton Fire Chief Gerry Cabalan*
Participating departments included Becket, Dalton, Hinsdale, Granby, Lanesborough, Great Barrington, Peru, Savoy, Stockbridge, Williamstown, and Windsor.

**SAFER Scholarship Winners Announced**
The MCVFA/SAFER College Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the latest scholarship recipients for the 2012–13 academic year.

- **Eli Dvorchik**
  - New Marlborough Vol. Fire Dept.
  - Anna Maria College
- **Robert Jarobski**
  - Leicester Fire Dept.
  - Quinsigamond Community College
- **Sabrina Livne-Kennedy**
  - South Hadley Fire District 2
  - Mount Holyoke College
- **Luke Longstreeth**
  - Hatfield Fire Dept.
  - UMass-Amherst
- **Kelly Potts**
  - Erving Fire Dept.
  - Greenfield Community College
- **Kirsten Therrien**
  - South Hadley Fire District 2
  - Mount Holyoke College

The MCVFA/SAFER Scholarship is a reimbursement award offered by the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA) through its Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Recruitment & Retention Program funded by a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant award.

Since July 2011, the MCVFA has awarded almost $220,000 in scholarship funds to 58 students attending 32 colleges and universities.

For more information contact Program Coordinator Susan Dyer at mcvfa-safer@mcvfa.org or (443) 994-3350.
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