

THE SMOKE EATER

THE OLD FIRE FARTS OF YORK COUNTY, PA. INC.

From The Secretary

Our apologies for not getting a newsletter out in 2024 before now. It has obviously been quite a hectic year for the Old Fire Farts. We will be covering quite a bit of 2024 news in this issue.

It was discussed at our last meeting to share our members' contact information with the membership. This would consist of your name, phone number and email. If you would like to opt out of your information being shared, please contact me as soon as possible to opt out.

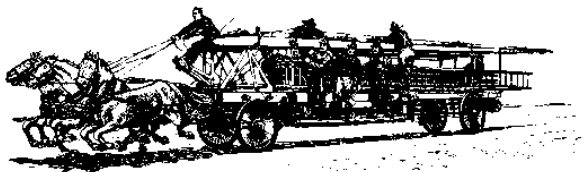
You can contact us by sending an email to info@oldfirefarts.org or to our individual emails.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024, at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, 3604 East Market Street York, PA 17402. Those coming for lunch should arrive at 12:00 noon, with the meeting starting around 2:00 p.m.

Please remember to bring along the community night email that we will send to you, as that qualifies us to receive a portion of your bill as a donation to our organization. At our last meeting, we earned \$80.50 for our organization. This is a very simple way to raise some funds for our organization.



September 2023 - Volume 11, Issue 1

YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Neil Gunnet
fireguyneil@gmail.com

Vice President

Dick Staub
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Secretary

Greg Halpin
greg@halpin.com

Treasurer

Charlie Webb
charlie1258@yahoo.com

Directors-At-Large

Greg Moul
iaff3503charpres@aol.com

Harold Reinhold
hartmanfireequipment@gmail.com

Robert L. Straw

January 25, 1947 - February 19, 2024



Bob was born and raised in York, and attended York City schools until 6th grade, when his family moved to Meadville, PA. Bob returned to York to attend York Junior College, at which time he joined the Union Fire Company No. 3 of York City, making him the 4th generation of the Straw family to belong to the fire company. Bob would later join the Lincoln Engine Company No. 9 in York City, and later the Springetts Fire Company in Springettsbury Township. Bob was a member of the Springetts Fire Babies, a comedy troupe that performed in local parades and regional fire service events. Bob would later join the Alert Fire Company of Emigsville. Bob would also become an officer of the Firefighters Association of York County, in which he was still involved at the time of his death.

Bob served as the director of the York County Emergency Management Agency from 1984 until 2000 and served as the Regional Emergency Response Manager for the York County Chapter of the American Red Cross from 2001 until 2013.

Bob was one of the founding members, and first president of the Old Fire Farts of York County, Pa. and was instrumental in incorporating the association, acquiring its 501 (c)(3) status, and expanding its reach. The Old Fire Farts of York County was organized to preserve the history of the fire service for future generations, and to provide financial assistance to first responders by providing scholarships to better train first responders serving York County. The scholarship program was of particular interest to Bob, and he made great efforts to keep the program funded. Bob was very active in promoting the organization and was the face of the Old Fire Farts of York County.

Old Fire Farts Christmas Party



Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2024, beginning at 12:00 noon at the Alert Fire Company in Emigsville. (Please note the change in start time.)

RSVP for the Christmas Party by December 1st by emailing to info@oldfirefarts.org with the number of adults and number of children attending.

Adults should bring along one wrapped gift for each child, marked with their name(s), for Santa and Mrs. Claus to give to them at the party.

Santa and Mrs. Claus must leave by 1:00 pm, so they will make an appearance early at the party.

2024 SPAAMFAA National Convention

The Old Fire Farts of York County, PA were the hosts for the 2024 SPAAMFAA National Convention here in York from June 4th to 8th, 2024. The host hotel was the Four Points by Sheraton York on Toronita Street.

Our members spent months and months preparing for the convention, which was complicated by the untimely passing of Bob Straw. Bob had been spearheading the convention, and fortunately kept very good files for us to proceed with the event.

Our team set up at the host hotel on Tuesday morning and continued to staff the hotel through Saturday evening. A registration area and merchandise tables were set up off of the hotel lobby and were staffed by our members and friends each day. Over 200 SPAAMFAA members and guests attended the event, and everyone was processed at the registration area.

A welcoming dinner was held on Tuesday evening at St. Matthew Church on West Market Street in York, followed by an open house at the York County Fire Museum a few doors up the street.

Bus trips were held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with the highlight being the trip to Schuylkill County on Thursday, where two busloads were hosted by the Black Diamond Chapter with a tour of their museum and warehouse, a Polish American lunch with a live Polka band. The buses were escorted into town by a group of antique fire apparatus, and the street in front of the museum was shut down for the visit.

In addition to the various meetings, we provided two special presentations for those in attendance. On Wednesday, Greg Halpin, York City Fire Historian and Old Fire Farts Secretary, gave a PowerPoint presentation on American LaFrance fire apparatus in York. On Thursday, Gary Handwerk, spoke on his work as a consultant to fire apparatus manufacturers for over 40 years and why things have changed in the design of fire apparatus.

On Saturday, a fire apparatus muster was held in the parking lot of the Central York High School on Mundis Mill Road in Springettsbury Township. The muster was held in conjunction with the Professional Car Society, who had a display of their members' ambulances, limousines, hearses and funeral cars. Over 100 pieces of antique fire apparatus was on display, dozens of vendors occupied our flea market area, and food trucks were on site throughout the day with food and drinks for those in attendance. The Emigsville Band was on site during the morning to provide music, finishing with the National Anthem at 12:00 noon when the color guard from the York City Fire Department presented the colors.

The convention ended Saturday evening with a banquet at the Union Hose and Fire Company's social hall in Dover. Over 150 people attended the dinner.

Comments from our guests were primarily positive, and everyone seemed to have a great time during their visit to York. Our thanks go out to everyone that helped in any way with the convention.

The Unication G5 pager raffle winner was drawn at the convention. Jimmy Kimble was the winner, and the pager was programmed for Washington County, Maryland and shipped to him.



Winners of the 56th Annual SPAAMFAA National Convention Muster

Best Hand Drawn Pump

Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum
United Fire Company of Frederick Maryland
1848 Rogers

Best Hand Drawn Hose Reel

Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum
Independent Fire Company of Frederick Maryland
1893 Holloway

Second Best Hand Drawn Pump or Hose Reel

Bruce Yealy
1900 Wirt Knox hose reel

Best Horse Drawn

Luc Drolet
1915 Waterous horse drawn pumper

Best Motorized 1900 to 1930

Ed Saniewski
1917 American LaFrance Type 40

Best Motorized 1931 to 1950

Southern Area Fire and Emergency Rescue
1948 Mack pumper

Best Motorized 1951 to 1970

Duane Trautman
1951 Seagrave pumper

Best Motorized 1971 to 1990

Joel D. Bain
1985 American LaFrance Century pumper

Best Motorized 1991 to 2000

Chad Krebs
1992 Pierce Arrow Snorkel

Best Preserved Apparatus

Northern York County Fire and Rescue (Dillsburg)
1919 Ford Model T American LaFrance

Best Overall Privately Owned

Scott Sefton
1979 Hahn pumper

Best Overall Fire Department Owned

West Manchester Twp. FD (Lincolnway)
1982 Mack pumper

Best Restored Rig

Steve Austin
1954 American LaFrance pumper

Longest Distance Driven

Dan Kamp - Dutton, Michigan
1957 Seagrave mid-mount ladder truck

Longest Distance Trailered

Luc Drolet - Longuevil, Quebec, Canada
1915 Waterous horse drawn pumper

Kraig Herman Memorial Award for best American LaFrance

Joe D'Antoni
1978 American LaFrance Century

Bob Straw Memorial Award for BEST IN SHOW

Terry Fix
1926 American LaFrance pumper

Judges Choice Award Aerial

The Gibney Family
1974 Mack Tractor-drawn aerial ladder

Judges Choice Award Support Piece

Mark McKissick
1985 Mack/Swab walk-in rescue

Judges Choice Award Pumper

Fire Museum of Maryland
1920 Seagrave pumper

Judges Choice Award - Judges Choice

Chris Scheer
1982 Chevy/Pierce mini pumper

Pumping Quickest Water Centrifugal

Gary Rickrode
1940 Chevy/Darley pumper

Pumping Quickest Water Rotary

Terry Fix
1926 American LaFrance pumper

Photos from the 56th SPAMFAA National Convention





Annual Picnic Cancelled

It was decided at our last meeting to cancel the annual family picnic for 2024. With all the events that occurred this year, along with how late we are in the year, it was decided to wait and plan for a picnic in 2025.



Apparatus Requests

We have received the following requests for antique fire apparatus at upcoming events:

The York Revolution Baseball Club is looking for antique apparatus for their First Responders Night on September 11th at Wellspan Park, 5 Brooks Robinson Way in downtown York.

York Township is looking for antique apparatus for their annual Fall Fun Fest and Touch a Truck event on October 12th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at 190 Oak Road, Dallastown, PA.

York State Fair

Member Bruce Yealy had several pieces of antique hand-drawn fire apparatus on display at the York State Fair in York this year. Dillsburg's 1919 Ford American LaFrance chemical and hose car was also on display.

York County History Center Second Saturday Series

Association Secretary Greg Halpin will be the guest speaker at the Second Saturday Series in October at the new York County History Center complex at 121 North Pershing Avenue in downtown York. Greg will be providing his presentation from the SPAAMFAA Convention, "York Pennsylvania - An American LaFrance Town" on Saturday October 12th at 10:30 a.m.

The Old Fire Farts have been invited to the event, and will have a display table set up that morning at the History Center.