

# 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.

# **Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association**

## **2010-2011 Officers**

**President - Michael Palmateer**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Tom Gonzalez**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Stephen M Salluce**  
**Recording Secretary - Phyllis Dinkelacker**  
**Financial Secretary - George Stacey**  
**Treasurer – Mitzi-Su Fremgen**

### **Appointed Officers**

**Chaplain - Fred VanLoan**

### **Sergeant at Arms:**

**PJ Pugsley**  
**Garth Walker**

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

**Chair: Peter Alberti**  
**Gary Goodrich**  
**John P Farrell Jr.**  
**George F Stacey**  
**David Sherman**  
**Marilyn Schrader**  
**Mitzi-Su Fremgen**  
**Eugene Jennings**

### **Steering Committee**

**Chair: Paul VanValkenburg**  
**John P Farrell Jr.**  
**Marilyn Schrader**  
**Carlos Sala Jr.**  
**George Stacey**  
**Charlie Fremgen**  
**Chester Garrison**  
**Eugene Jennings**

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

**Chair: Linda Gaeta**  
**Mary Sheridan**  
**Trevor Thorpe**  
**Derrick Curran**  
**John P Farrell Jr.**  
**Paul VanValkenburg**  
**George Stacey**

**Legislative Committee**

**Chair: Vicki Dichian  
Harold Rivenburgh  
Marilyn Schrader  
Ronald Garrison**

**Firemen's Home Committee**

**Chair: John P Farrell Jr.  
Paul VanValkenburg  
Eugene Jennings  
Fred Van Loan**

**Resolutions Committee**

**Chair: Vicki Dichian  
Yale Frank Jr.  
Phyllis Dinkelacker  
Patrick Pugsley Sr.**

**Auditing Committee**

**Chair: Dawn Smith  
Patrick Pugsley Sr.  
Robert Schrader  
Gary Goodrich  
Robert Frank**

**Fundraising Committee**

**Chair: Harold Rivenburgh  
Yale Frank Jr.  
Robert Schrader  
Tom Gonzalez  
Michael Palmateer  
Linda Gaeta  
PJ Pugsley  
Lennon**

**History Preservation Committee**

**Chairman: Salvatore Alberti**

**Nominations Committee**

**Chair: Peter Alberti  
Carl Sala  
Richard Harty**

**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  
Adam Goodrich  
Mathew Dwon  
John J Farrell  
James Robinson III**

**Booster Line Committee**

**Chair: Maureen Murphy  
George Stacey  
Dottie Jennings  
Chuck Adsit  
Linda Gaeta  
Peter Alberti**

**Fire Prevention. Day Committee**

**Chair: Charlie Fremgen  
Mitzi-Su Fremgen  
Terry Borgwiegn  
John Wallace  
Lillian Aleo  
Connie Whitbeck  
Vicki Dichian  
John (Randy) VanValkenburgh  
Peter Alberti**

**Scholarship Committee**

**Chair: Robert Schrader  
Dave Battini  
Mary Sheridan  
Debbie Sherman**

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

**Chair: PJ Pugsley  
George Stacey  
Harold Rivenburgh  
Chip Spring  
Kevin Lennon  
Joe Affronti, Jr  
Edward Dibble  
David Sherman  
Linda Gaeta  
Yale Frank Jr.  
Tom Gonzalez  
Peter Alberti  
Mike Palmateer**

**Greene County Convention Advisory Committee**

**Chair: Edward Dibble  
Peter Alberti  
Robert Frank  
Harold Rivenburgh  
Floyd Prince Jr.  
Marilyn L. Schrader  
Phyllis Dinkelacker  
Trevor Thorpe  
David Sherman**

**Past Presidents Dinner Committee**

**Chair: Stephen M Salluce  
John P Farrell Jr.  
Patrick Pugsley  
George Stacey  
Tom Gonzalez  
Mitzi-Su Fremgen  
Marilyn Schrader**

**Greene County Home Fire Disaster Fund**

**Chair: Marilyn Schrader  
Frank Roberts Sr.  
Salvatore Alberti  
Phyllis Dinkelacker**

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

Date: June 7, 2009  
Host: Athens Volunteer Fire Department  
Chair: John J Farrell  
GCVFA Liaison: Stephen M Salluce

**Greene County Drill Day**

Date: June 14, 2009  
Host: West Athens Lime Street Fire Company  
Chair: Robert Schrader  
GCVFA Liaison: Tom Gonzalez

**Greene County Convention**

Date: September 8-12, 2009  
Host: Cairo Hose Co.  
Chair: Brian Feml  
GCVFA Liaison: Michael Palmateer