

# 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**

<b>President</b>	PJ Pugsley
<b>1st Vice President</b>	John J Farrell
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	John Darling III
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Phyllis Dinkelacker
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	George Stacey
<b>Treasurer</b>	Harold Rivenburgh

**Appointed Officers**

<b>Chaplain</b>	Fred Van Loan
<b>Honorary Sgt at Arms</b>	Garth Walker
<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Frank Boertlin
<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Adam Greco
<b>Historian</b>	Salvatore Alberti

**By-laws & Guidelines**

Pete Alberti, Chair  
George Stacey, Co-Chair  
John P Farrell Jr  
David Sherman  
Marilyn Schrader  
Eugene Jennings  
Phyllis Dinkelacker  
Gary Goodrich

**Nominating &  
Steering**

Marilyn Schrader, Chair  
Richard Harty, Co-Chair  
John P Farrell Jr  
Carlos P Sala Jr  
Chester Garrison  
Eugene Jennings  
Yale Frank Jr  
Steve Salluce Jr

**Recruitment, Retention,  
& Membership**

Stephen Salluce, Chair  
Joe Affronte, Co Chair  
Trevor Thorpe  
Derrick Curran  
John P Farrell Jr  
George Stacey  
Mary Sheridan

**Legislative**

Harold Rivenburgh, Chair  
Marilyn Schrader  
Ronald Garrison  
Yale Frank Jr

**Firemen's Home**

John P Farrell Jr, Chair  
Eugene Jennings  
Fred Van Loan

**Resolutions**

Vicki Dichian, Chair  
Pat Pugsley Sr  
Phyllis Dinkelacker  
Yale Frank Jr

**Auditing**

Robert Frank, Chair  
Pat Pugsley Sr  
Gary Goodrich

**Fundraising**

Tom Gonzalez, Chair  
Robert Schrader  
Steve Salluce Jr  
Michael Palmateer  
all GCVFA Members

**Firefighter of the Year**

George Stacey, Chair  
Barry Feml  
John P Farrell Jr  
Lou O'Connor

**Drill Day & Rules**

Carlos P Sala, Chair  
Charlie Fremgen, Co-  
Chair  
Connie Whitbeck  
Peter Alberti  
John J Farrell  
Frank Boertlin

**Golf**

Kevin Lennon, Chair  
PJ Pugsley  
Brian Farrell

**Ski Competition**

Kevin Lennon, Chair  
Adam Goodrich  
Mathew Dwon  
John J Farrell  
James Robinson III

**Boster Line**

Maureen Murphy, Chair  
George Stacey  
Dotty Jennings - Auxiliary  
Chuck Adsit  
Pete Alberti  
Tim Albright  
Diana Balling - Auxiliary  
Amy Hodor - Auxiliary  
John Miller

**Fire Prevention Day**

Charlie Fremgen, Chair  
Lillian Wood, Co-Chair  
John Wallace  
Connie Whitbeck  
Vicki Dichian  
Randy VanValkenburgh  
Peter Alberti  
Frank Roberts Sr

**Scholarship Committee**

Robert Schrader, Chair  
Dave Battini  
Mary Sheridan  
Debbie Sherman  
All GCVFA Officers

**Dress Parade Rules,  
Regulations, & Parade  
Counters**

Harold Rivenburgh, Chair  
Chip Spring, Co Chair  
Kevin Lennon  
Edward Dibble  
Yale Frank Jr  
Peter Alberti  
Mike Palmateer  
Mark Dinkelacker  
Brian Feml  
Frank Boertlin

**GCVFA Convention  
Advisory**

Edward Dibble  
Peter Alberti  
Robert Frank  
Harold Rivenburgh  
Marilyn Schrader  
Phyllis Dinkelacker  
Trevor Thorpe  
David Sherman

**Past Presidents Dinner**

John Darling III, Chair  
John P Farrell Jr.  
George Stacey  
Marilyn Schrader  
GCVFALA Committee  
GCVFPA Committee  
GCVFCA Committee

**Home Fire Disaster Fund**

Marilyn Farrell, Chair  
Frank Roberts Sr, Co-Chair  
Marilyn Schrader  
Salvatore Alberti  
Steve Salluce Jr  
ALL OFFICERS

**DELEGATES:**

**Hudson Valley - Primary**

**Hudson Valley - Alt**

**FASNY - Primary**

**FASNY - Alternate**

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

Date: June 1, 2013

Host:

Chair:

GCVFA Liaison: John Darling, 2nd VP

**Greene County Drill Day**

Date: June 8, 2013

Host:

Chair:

GCVFA Liaison: John J Farrell, 1st VP

**Greene County Convention**

Date: September 8-12, 2009

Host: Hunter Fire Co.

Chair:

GCVFA Liaison: PJ Pugsley, President