



THE REGISTER

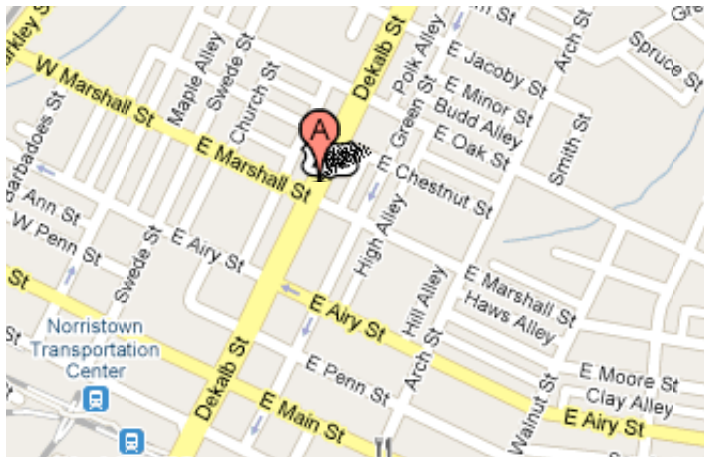
Newsletter of The Union Historical Fire Society

Delaware Valley Chapter of S.P.A.A.M.F.A.A.

www.unionhistoricalfiresociety.com

**NEXT MEETING OF THE
UNION HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY
WILL BE HELD AT: Norris Hose Company
of the Norristown Fire Department
Sunday, January 17th, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**

The next regular meeting of the Union Historical Fire Society will take place at Norris Hose Company of the Norristown Fire Department, 627 Dekalb Street, Norristown, PA 19401, located at the corner of Dekalb St & E. Chestnut St. Parking will be on the street. **Do not use CVS Pharmacy parking lot; it is a Tow Away Area.** For additional directions to the Norris Hose Company, please see the directions page at the left side of page. If you need additional directions, please phone 484-620-5575. Refreshments will be served before the meeting. Members are welcome to bring along a guest, and newcomers are welcome. On the agenda will be Election of 2010 Board Officers. Directions to Norris Hose Company: From I-476 exit at #18 Ridge Pike, go west to Dekalb St., turn right, and go four blocks. Norris Hose is located on the left. From Schuylkill Epwy (Rt-76) exit at #331 Conshohocken, go to Rt-23, turn left and head to Bridgeport, at Rt-202 make a right turn and go for about 3 miles. Norris Hose is located on the left.



Message From The President

That Old Outlaw Time



My clock has been ticking for eighty years plus. There were times when I tried to turn it back to enjoy peace & quiet and times when I wanted to attend a meeting, muster, etc. Looking back, I was your vice president for five years, and your president on & off for thirteen years. Throughout those years, I had good input from many members and you can read where we are today. I will stay active and will keep my eyes on that old outlaw time, and support the society and the spring melt. I wish all the members and families good health and happiness.

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Important NOTICE

Effective immediately, all correspondence to the Union Historical Fire Society shall be sent to the following:

US Mail to:

P. O. Box #596, Havertown, PA 19083-0596

All Email to:

secretary@unionhistoricalfiresociety.com

Thank you for your cooperation.

Chris Straub

Corresponding Secretary

Union Historical Fire Society Minutes

from Mack South Fire Station, Allentown, PA

held on Sunday, November 22, 2009

President Harold Seibert started the meeting @ 10:05 a.m. with 14 members in attendance. After the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag and a moment of silence, a motion was made to dismiss the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting held on September 13, 2009 at Firemen's Hall Museum. The motion was made by John Lambing Jr. and Ken Snyder. The motion was accepted.

President Report:

President Seibert welcomed all members attending the meeting, and thanked the Allentown Fire Department for the use of the Mack South Fire Station.

Membership:

Mike Kush reported that there are 283 members: 212 Active Members, 3 Affiliated Members, 3 Honorary Members, 1 Courtesy Member, 48 Life Members, and 16 Distinguished Life Members. Mike reported he received a card from Sarah Lee informing him that Walter Lee past away and thanking the group. There was a question about the courtesy member and a discussion was held. A motion was made by Harold Seibert and Mel Shapiro to accept the report. The motion was accepted.

Finance Report:

The finance report was submitted by Mike Kush for Craig Glass Jr.. A motion was made by Chris Straub & Harold Seibert to accept the report. The motion was accepted.

Correspondence:

A letter was read from Firemen's Hall Musuem requesting to renew membership to the musuem. A thank you card was received from Bob Robing for the distinguished life member card. Another letter was received from the Martin Luther King committee from Philadelphia asking if anyone wants to participant in the 15th annual parade. Chris Straub reported "The REGISTER" newsletter was sent to every SPAAMFAA chapter . We also received 7 newsletters; six were printed and one was electronic from other chapters.

Committee Reports:

Burn Foundation:

Mike Kush reported the Burn Foundation had made three suggestions. Crozer Chester Medical Center had a list and Mike requested the cost of the items on the list. Lehigh Valley Hospital had three suggestions. A discussion was held with the majority of the members choosing the Chromolite™ laser, which will be purchased for the Lehigh Valley Hospital Burn Unit. The laser will have a plaque on it saying the Union Historical Fire Society has donated this piece of equipment. The motion was accepted.

Spring Melt:

Mike Kush reported the deposit has been made for the twenty first annual Spring Melt Fire Memorabilia Marketplace & Auction to be held April 17th & 18th, 2010 at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex Expo Center, located at 302 N. 17th St, Allentown, PA 18104 . The fire auction will take place on Saturday the 17th at 9 a.m. with Donn Zalewski as Auctioneer from Donn & Associates. The fire memorabilia marketplace will be on Sunday, April 18th at 9 a.m..

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Union Historical Fire Society Minutes

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Communication:

No report.

Bylaws Committee:

No report.

Trading Cards:

No report.

Activity Committee:

Joe Landy reported life members pins are finished and Mike Kush will be mailing them to the life members.

Banquet Committee:

President Seibert reported the banquet will be part of the 35th anniversary celebration and will take place in a facility that is handicapped accessible. A DJ was requested for the banquet. The banquet will tentatively be held in May.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Interaction Committee:

Joe Landy reported he attended the Glasstown meeting. The Union Historical Fire Society will be having two or three road trips next year.

Web Site:

Chris Straub reported the web site hosting is due for renewal before the next meeting. The group decided to renew it for three years, and next year the site will have advertising on it. A motion was made by Alan Hoffman and Mel Shapiro. The motion was accepted.

Pins:

Mike Kush requested a pin for the distinguished life members and Joe Landy will take care of it.

Nominations:

The nominations for the 2010 Officers and Directors are as follows: President: John Lambing Jr., Vice President: Joseph Landy and Al Lohr, Treasurer: Craig Glass Jr., Membership Secretary: Michael Kush, Corresponding Secretary: Chris Straub, Sergeant at Arms: Open, Directors: Mel Shapiro, Robert Zulinski, Al Lohr, Bob Taggart, and George Benigno. There are only two positions for directors and anyone who votes for more than two will have that portion of the ballot voided. President Seibert will appoint a committee of three members before the meeting to be judges of the election.

50/50 won by Mike Kush.

Motion to adjourn was offered by Sarah Landy, seconded by Chris Straub. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35

Minutes by Chris Straub

2010 Spring Melt

The twenty first annual Spring Melt Fire Memorabilia Marketplace & Auction will be held **April 17th & 18th, 2010** at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex Expo Center, 302 N. 17th St, Allentown, PA 18104 . The auction will take place on Saturday the 17th at 9 a.m. with Donn Zalewski as Auctioneer from Donn & Associates, the Fire Memorabilia Marketplace will be on Sunday April 18th at 9 a.m.. Additional information will be in next addition of "The REGISTER" and you can also check the web site at unionhistoricalfiresociety.com



Apparatus Corner

A great source of pride for the Rio Grande Fire Company is the 1950 Mack Pumper, 500 gpm pump with a 500 gallon booster tank. This truck was the first new piece of apparatus purchased for the Fire Company, and answered its first fire on November 29, 1950. It served faithfully until 1990. In 1991, the truck was retired from service and with donations raised by the Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary, the truck was refurbished by Tri-State Frame & Axle Company. The gold leafing was done by Charlie Mullen of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The Rio Grande Fire company is located at the intersection of RT-9 & RT-47 in Cape May County, New Jersey.



The Mack in 1950



The Mack in 2009

Members Request

Society member Russell Sterner has a large collection of fire items for sale. one hundred fifty cast iron trucks, eight hook and ladders from forty's & fifty's. Forty pieces of the Texaco collection. If interested, you can contact: Russell Sterner at 610-965-2756.



Group picture of some of the members who attended the Nov. 22nd meeting at Mack South Fire Station

Election of Officers

The nominations for the 2010 Officers and Directors are as follows:

President: John Lambing Jr.

Vice President: Joseph Landy and Al Lohr (Vote for only ONE)

Treasurer: Craig Glass Jr.

Membership Secretary: Michael Kush

Corresponding Secretary: Chris Straub

Sergeant at Arms: Open

Directors: Mel Shapiro, Robert Zulinski, Al Lohr, Bob Taggart, George Benigno.

There are only two positions for directors and anyone who votes for more than two will have that portion of the ballot voided.

Editor's Notes

If you would like to have your article or event added to "The REGISTER", please email the information to: theregister@unionhistoricalfiresociety.com, or you can send by US mail to: P. O. Box #596 Havertown, PA 19083-0596, and we will print it in the next issue .



A trip through history part 2

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THE PHILADELPHIA FIRE TRUCK WORKS, INC.

by Raymond H. Troth, Jr.

A feature which makes Philadelphia Fire Truck Works units easily recognizable is the distinctive builders plate. A Maltese cross of bright cast aluminum about four inches across appears on both cowl sides. The plate has the builders name arranged in the outer segments of the design and the location, Roslyn, Penna. This plate has been consistent on all but one example found.

All apparatus designed and built by Francis Hall follow the same design criteria. The chassis are 1 to 2 ton commercial truck chassis with or without a cab. The open cab units have a built up flat windshield sometimes angled slightly aft. with a separate seat seatbox assembly. A vertical hand rail along the rear edge of the cowl and a cast curved grab handle on the front of the seat completed the austere cab. The warning devices are usually a bell and Sterling siren with integral warning light mounted either on the left front fender or cab roof. A pedestal mounted search light on the right running board or dashboard usually is the only auxiliary lighting device.

A 500 GPM or smaller Barton centrifugal front mount pump with some type of bumper extension makes up the mechanical fire fighting equipment. The bumper extensions on the Mount Bethel Penna. piece, are structural channel iron extensions, reasonably well protected. All piping and valves are of the standard iron pipe variety. The hose body is a pure rectangular shape with the separate booster tank set inside at the front. An axially mounted, single 3/4 inch booster line reel over the water tank is the standard mounting used by Hall.

Other common standards on Philadelphia Fire Truck Works units are a bucket rack on the running board. Also common is a bucket fill for the water tank and two Indian Tank extinguishers that are running board mounted. The hard sleeves on the Indiana chassis apparatus fasten to the trays with husky leather straps around both sleeves, reminiscent of the horse drawn steamer era. A boot rail has been present on the hose body of most examples and this feature may also be standard.

The apparatus built by Francis Hall at the Philadelphia Fire Truck Works were indeed very basic, rural fire fighting machines devoid of any amenities. Economy and practicality were, predictably, the rationale for Volunteer Fire Companies to purchase this type of equipment. Hall's apparatus have proven durable. The sheet steel used by Hall is not easily obtainable today as modern sheet metal is thinner. The metal used by Hall is classed as steel plate rather than sheet metal.

These products of the smaller builders served a very useful purpose in the fire fighting community. Practical, easy to repair, and simple to operate fire apparatus were necessary in rural areas. The same chassis routinely repaired for local commerce and agriculture came within the capability of local garages. This eliminated the need for specialized tools and skills. Parts came through regular automotive or truck dealership channels. This simplified maintenance in rural areas where most of these apparatus served.

This type of apparatus was at one time produced commercially in large numbers. Firms such as Barton Products Co. of Jackson, Michigan and the W.S. Darley Co. supplied this market. Darley also furnished parts, fittings, pumps and fire fighting equipment to the smaller builders. Kits to build apparatus on light commercial chassis were also available at one time. Darley, located in both Chicago and Melrose Park, Illinois, continues in business. Barton Products Co. is still active under the name American Godiva, now in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The Philadelphia Fire Truck Works produced an unknown number of fire apparatus. The small shop could not accommodate more than one apparatus at a time. Considering the size of the plant, production possibly was only five or six apparatus a year. Using these figures, some 100 units would be the total production over the 19 years the firm existed. There is a possibility that Frank Hall also engaged in the repair and modification of apparatus on a local level. For so few units built, a comparatively large number remain. Local interest in the Philadelphia Fire Truck Works is making a reappearance as contemporary restorations become more noticed. Those who knew Frank Hall remember him as a skilled and mechanically clever genius.

This article was submitted by Al Lohr.





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Delaware Valley Chapter
 S.P.A.A.M.F.A.A.

The Union Historical Fire Society website
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“The REGISTER” Newsletter editor
theregister@unionhistoricalfiresociety.com

2009 Officers

- President Harold Seibert
- Vice President Joe Landy
- Corresponding Secretary..... Chris Straub
- Membership Secretary Mike Kush
- Treasurer Craig Glass Jr.
- Sergeant at Arms Robert Zulinski
- Director George Benigno
- Director John Lambing Jr.
- Director Mel Shapiro

Up Coming Meetings

**January 2010 - Norristown Hose Company
 (Election of 2010 Officers)**

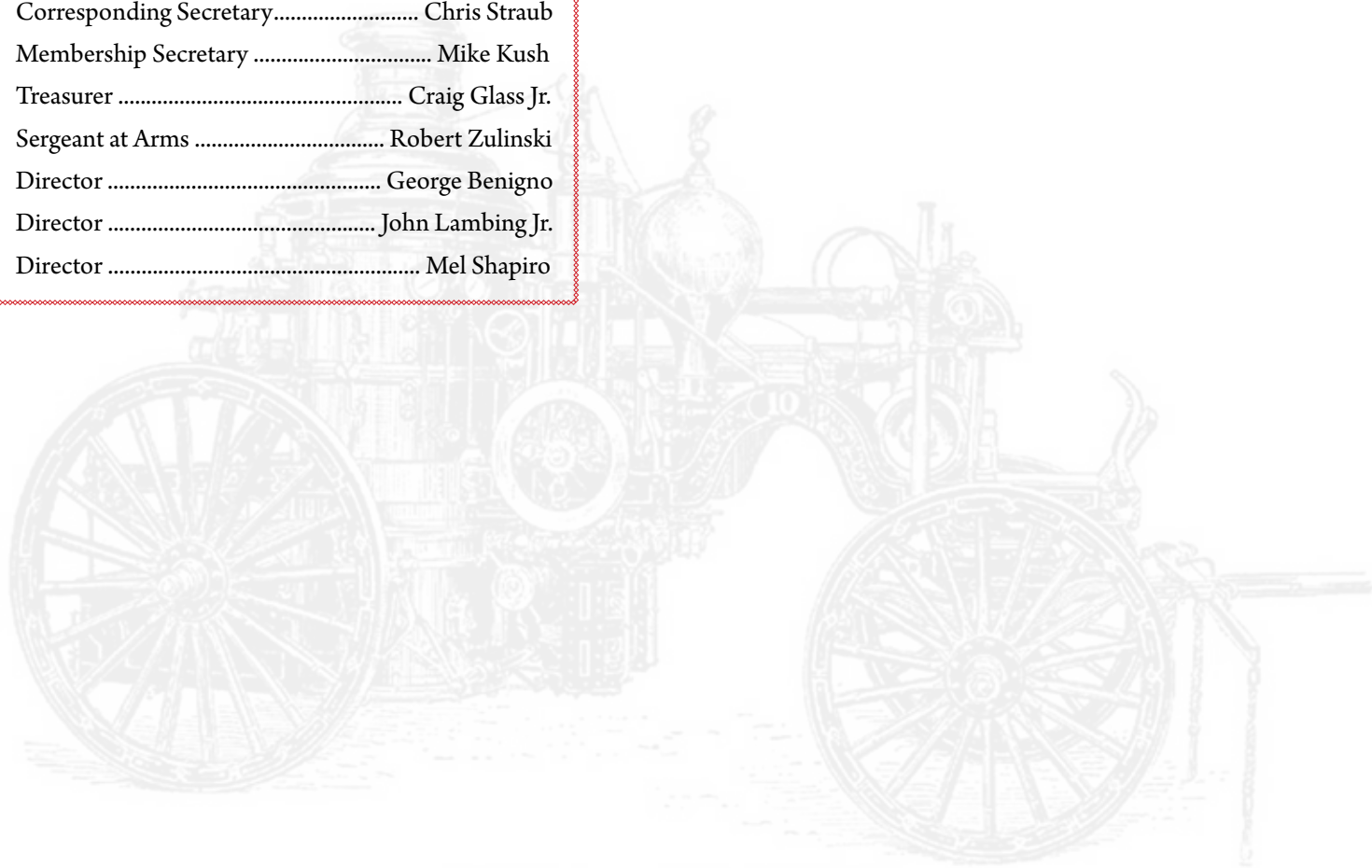
March 2010 - TBA

May 2010 - TBA

July 2010 - TBA

September 2010 - TBA

November 2010 - TBA



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 Delaware Valley Chapter of S.P.A.A.M.F.A.A.
 P.O.Box #596 Havertown, PA 19083-0596
 “The REGISTER” Newsletter
 Dated Material

