
FIRE LINES

Hancock Fire Department Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

November 2014

Becky's Legacy

The Hancock Fire Department has been around since 1907, but it took more than seventy years before we got our first female member. Becky Lohmiller joined the Department in 1978, after having been denied membership two years before. She quickly became an integral part of our organization, and worked as a firefighter, EMT, and our secretary and treasurer until her death in 2009. Becky helped lead the way for many women on local fire departments. Now, it is hard to picture a fire department that could operate without the help of female members.

We currently have four women on our department: **Ellen Moran, Marylou Cassidy, Meghan Bedard, and Siobhan Martin.** All of them work as firefighters and EMT's. Ellen and Marylou have been members since 2002 and hold CDL licenses; they can drive the big trucks. Ellen was our first female officer. Marylou has been our treasurer for five years now. Meg has proven to be a good EMT; she is our go-to gal when dealing with a child or older woman, or someone in distress. Siobhan is our newest member, but jumped in with both feet and is

continuing her education to become an Advanced EMT. We have had calls where either the Rescue Truck or a fire engine shows up on a call with an all female crew- often they hop out and cheerfully announce that the "Broad Squad" is on scene!

I'm proud of the many women that have served with our department since Becky broke the gender barrier, and the women that now work with us. We are always looking for new members, both male and female. Think about it.

Nevan Cassidy
HFD Chief



You Can't WIN If You Don't Play

It's time again to purchase your tickets for the Hancock Fire Department's annual raffle. This raffle is our most popular fundraiser because there are so many chances to win. For just a \$10 donation per ticket, you'll have five chances to win prizes of up to \$40 at each of our monthly meetings. Also, 40 extra prizes will be drawn at the November meeting. That's 100 chances to win and a great chance to help out your fire department. It is important to get your tickets in by December 1 so

you'll be eligible for all 12 monthly drawings. Any tickets purchased after December 1 will begin with the next monthly drawing following the date of purchase. Enclosed are two tickets; please include your mailing address when you send them in. If you wish to enter more than two times, you may do so by including an additional \$10 for each ticket you wish to purchase. You may also call our treasurer, MaryLou Cassidy, at 525-4786.

Behind the Scenes: Hancock FD Auxiliary

We're fortunate to not have a lot of big fires and other emergencies in Hancock, but when we do, the Hancock Fire Department Auxiliary is right there, playing an important role to support our work.

The Auxiliary is as ready as we are, knowing they may be called at any hour, day or night, to provide food, beverages and the all-important coffee to firefighters from Hancock and other towns that may be called here.

Any firefighter who's responded to a long-lasting, late-night call understands the Auxiliary's critical role. Working a fire and overhauling the messy aftermath can take many hours of hard labor. That sandwich, soda or coffee is a mighty welcome sight.

The Auxiliary also helps raise funds for the department. One of the features of Old Home Day are raffle tickets for a chance to win a kayak, a bike or other things from EMS. Auxiliary funds recently helped the department purchase a new blood pressure monitor.

The HFD Auxiliary includes retired firefighters, spouses of current ones and a few others, and is always looking for a few more folks willing to help. Auxiliary members never know when they may get the call, but their help is always much-appreciated.

Let us know if you're interested!



There's HFD Chief Nevan Cassidy jumping head-first out a second floor window. This was one small part of a multi-session training opportunity that our crew participated in this summer in Peterborough. In this exercise, we learned how to extract ourselves safely, should the need ever arise. Don't try this at home!

Smoke Alarms Q&A

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT IS THE BEST SMOKE ALARM FOR MY HOME?

There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.

WHERE DO I PLACE MY SMOKE ALARMS?

- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Proper placement is critical for the effective functioning of a smoke alarm. Please follow manufacturer's directions for proper placement.
- Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

WHEN DO I REPLACE MY SMOKE ALARMS?

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. To determine the age of your smoke alarm, look at the back where you will find the date of manufacture. Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from that date.
- Immediately replace any smoke alarm that does not respond properly when tested.
- Replace combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Important Numbers

FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY – 911

Fire Station for non-emergency calls: 525-3366

Fire Chief Nevan Cassidy: 525-4786

Asst. Chief John Pirkey: 525-4295

Asst. Chief Tom Bates: 525-3789

* I would like to DONATE WITHOUT participating in the raffle.

Disclosures – 1. One hundred drawings totaling \$1,120.00 will be awarded in the Hancock Fire Department Association Raffle. 2. Each ticket purchased will be eligible to win one in five drawings at the regular monthly meeting. 3. All ticket holders will be sent their winnings by first class mail. 4. The cost of one raffle ticket is \$10.00. 5. The net proceeds of this raffle would be available solely for the support of the Hancock Fire Department Association.

I would like to participate without donating to the raffle.