



## CHIEF'S CORNER



**Welcome to 2014**  
Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the first Chief's Corner of 2014. I hope you all had a great holiday season and enjoyed some time with family and friends.

This month I did not have any particular topic for the Corner but thought I would discuss some upcoming items that will impact the department during this year. So, here are just a few of the things we will be talking about over the next year.

### Promotional Processes

Within the next several weeks, the promotional processes for Master Firefighter and Captain will be complete and we will be certifying a list of potential candidates for promotion. Shortly after these processes are finished, the Battalion Chief's process will take place, and by the end of winter the department will be ready to promote a number of new officers and fill some vacant positions. By spring there will be some "new faces" in new places and the department will look a little different than it does now. It is always exciting when these types of changes occur and I know the new officers will be full of new ideas and ready to make their mark.

### Hiring Process

We are also in the middle of a hiring process and should begin another recruit academy this spring. While this academy will not be nearly as large as the previous, it will probably have 10 or 12 recruits with some full-time and some part-time members. By late spring we should be graduating another class of rookies and filling any vacancies we currently have. This should help with staffing levels and make it easier during the summer when vacation time is more desirable.

### Station 6 Renovation

The renovation of Station 6 is finally ready to occur. This winter the project will be out for bid and we expect to award a contract this spring with construction to begin this summer.

I know the Station 6 crews are anxious to get this done and so am I. This project has been a long time in the "making," but I think the final results will be worth the wait. I am still working on the plans for the housing of Station 6's crew during the renovations and hope to be able to have some news in the not too distant future. This project will take much longer than the renovations to Station 3, but there is more involved. Stay tuned as we move forward with this item.

### Fleet

The department is also scheduled to receive a number of new vehicles this year. We will be getting a medic unit later this spring, and this summer we should be taking possession of three new pieces of suppression apparatus. All of the suppression apparatus will be Pierce and consist of two new engine companies and an aerial piece.

The addition of these pieces will help the department maintain the excellent fleet we currently have and they will also help with some of the maintenance issues we have experienced with several of the older engine companies. The new medic unit is coming mounted on a Kenworth chassis and it will be evaluated to determine how well it performs compared to our current Internationals.

### Budget

The last item for discussion this month is the new budget we will be operating with beginning in July.

The FY15 budget will be very similar to the current budget. Nothing extra, but it will contain the resources we need to continue to provide excellent service to our citizens. While we are still in the middle of the budget process and City

Council and the City Manager may make some changes, I feel like we will be fine. By the time the budget is adopted in May, I think the department will be in excellent shape. I am looking forward to another great year.

Well, that about wraps it up for this month. I hope everyone stays warm and takes care of themselves in this very cold weather we are experiencing. Bundle up and be safe on the emergency scene. Look out for the elderly patients and remember that they don't tolerate the cold well.

Until next time, take care and never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

## CERTIFICATIONS

**Intro. to Technical Rescue-Module 1 & 2**  
**Rope Rescue 1**  
**Vehicle Rescue 1**  
Brian Stinnette

**Paramedic**  
Jimmy Seay

## REMINDERS!

**Upcoming City Holiday Observed**  
City offices will be closed on January 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

City offices will be closed on February 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.



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## CHECK PRESENTED TO CENTRA FOUNDATION – M.A.A.M. FUND

On December 9, 2013, Fire Chief Brad Ferguson presented a check for \$13,000 to Centra CEO, E. W. Tibbs and Centra Foundation's Executive Vice President, Dr. Kathryn Pumphrey. The money will benefit the Centra Foundation's Mammograms Annually A Must (M.A.A.M.) Fund. The Lynchburg Fire Department's 2013 "Live • Fight • Dream" Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign included the sale of t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and dog tag necklaces.



Fire Chief Brad Ferguson presents check to Dr. Kathryn Pumphrey and M.A.A.M. representatives

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate anniversaries with the department in January.

### 6 Years

Jason Boteler	Brandon Brown
Candace Brown	Dane Phelps

### 1 Year

Tim Greenway

## LOCAL 1146 ELECTION

By: President Abbey Johnston



I would like to thank the members of the Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association for allowing me to serve as your President for the last three years. It has been an extremely rewarding experience and I am proud of all that we have accomplished.

Congratulations to the following officers who were elected and will be sworn in at the January 2014 meeting.

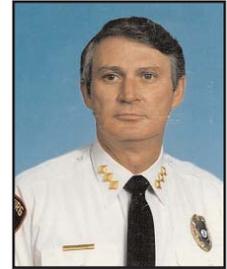
President:	Carey Orange
Vice President:	
A Shift:	Eric Maschal
B Shift:	Allen Marston
C Shift:	Kenny Turner
Secretary/Treasurer:	Roger Harris
Sergeant At Arms:	
A Shift:	Will Copes
B Shift:	Steve Ripley
C Shift:	Neil Patterson
Trustees:	
A Shift:	Zach Foster & Tom McCrickard
B Shift:	David Cox & Wayne Casto
C Shift:	Scott Kelly & John Ripley

## RETIREE RECONNECT

The purpose of this segment is to allow department members to "reconnect" with our retired members and find out what they've been up to! It will also introduce new department members to our retirees who served for many years and share some of their valuable knowledge.

### Deputy Chief Jim Cothran

30 Years, 11 Months of Service  
(June 12, 1966 to July 1, 1997)



**Share a fond memory or experience(s) that you were a part of during your service with the department.**

My first day at work was at Station 1 at 5<sup>th</sup> and Church Streets. After two days at Station 1, I was sent to Station 4 to help as a mechanic in the shop with Dennis Booth (head mechanic). I stayed there for 4-5 years and was then sent to Station 5 when it opened and worked with Raymond Blanks, Robert Toney, and William Anderson.

After moving into Station 5, the horsedrawn steamer (1871 Silsby) was relocated to Station 5 from the Armory. Myself, Captain Blanks, Robert Toney and William Anderson cleaned, sanded, and painted the steam pumper. The wooden spokes on the wheels were very loose, so Dennis Booth advised that we should soak the wheels in the river for a few days. We did this, along with some old wheels off of a hearse (horsedrawn) from Diuguids Funeral Home. After a few days, the wheels came out and all of the spokes had swelled and were all tight. They are still tight to this day! The steamer still looks good to this day thanks to Engine 5's crew.

I also remember when James Scott, Sheffie Brizendine, and myself responded to a fire on Pearl Street where we rescued five people. The last person out was an unconscious lady and we brought her to the roof and saved her. Much later, she and one of the others came to Fire Administration and thanked us for saving their lives.

Another memory was when the roof at Station 6 was on fire. We had a bad storm and heavy lightening earlier and all of the trucks were out. I left the office at 4:30 p.m. and when I pulled out I saw smoke coming from the Miller Park area. I drove to Park Avenue and noticed it was Station 6, knowing there was not one truck available in the City. I got on the radio to see if there was a truck available to clear up. I made it to Station 6 and the roof of the tower was blazing. Finally, Engine 6 and Truck 1 cleared up after 5 or 6 minutes and responded to the call. Engine 6 caught the hydrant and Truck 1 set up beside the station and firefighters climbed the ladder. Engine 7 went up the stairs through the tower to extinguish the fire. They covered the tower with tarps afterwards. Later in the Spring, the new roof was constructed on the back apron and lifted in place by a crane.

### What do you miss the most about the department?

I miss the people and working with them.

### What advice would you give to someone just starting their career with LFD?

Take advantage of all of the training and extra assignments and approach each day with a goal of learning something.