



### CHIEF'S CORNER

#### Seeing Pink — Again

Hello everyone and welcome to the Thanksgiving edition of the Chief's Corner for 2013. I hope you and yours are ready for "Turkey Day" and a chance to spend time with family and friends. As usual, the Fire Department has much to be grateful for this time of year and I want to say a special thanks to all of our members for their hard work and dedication. The department continues to serve our community in an exemplary fashion while providing fire and emergency medical services in a safe and efficient manner. We have responded to every request for service and have done so without any serious injury or accident. That just does not happen; it takes effort and I commend you for it.

As you all know, we just finished our fourth campaign to help support breast cancer awareness and raise money with the annual pink tee-shirt week. This event is starting to take on a life of its own and I thought it would be interesting to inform everyone about how this works. Back in the summer, the subject came up about the pink campaign and Tammy and I were trying to decide if we were going to have another "event" this year. We were already getting inquiries and questions on our Facebook page about it and we needed to make a decision. The tee-shirt campaign takes a great deal of work and staff time to make it successful and we wanted to be sure we were able to put forth the effort. After talking to Captain Jonathan Wright and reviewing how successful we were last year, we decided to go for it again. We began to talk about the design and color of this year's shirt and what we wanted it to say. I wanted something that would be representative of the Fire Department's long history and celebrate our 130 years of service to the community. We discussed the things about the department that are iconic and what to use. We talked about the fountain in Miller Park and some of the old horse-drawn equipment as well. We also talked about Station 6 and the fact that we have been in this building for 100 years. It has a great deal of history and nothing else says Lynchburg Fire Department like Station 6; it practically screams iconic.

Once the decision was made to use Station 6, Tammy started looking for some pictures of the station that would be suitable for use on the shirt. We sent some photos to the artist at High Peak and asked him to put some prototypes together for us. He responded with some ideas but needed some better pictures with more resolution for the image to look good once printed. Over the next several days, I went by Station 6 at different times to see how the sunlight fell on the front of the station and decided when was the best time to take some photos. As it turned out, the late afternoon sun provided the best light and color for the photos. One afternoon, when I was on the way home, I stopped at Station 6 and took a selection of pictures from different angles to give us some options. After reviewing the photos, Tammy selected several and sent them to

High Peak for them to finalize a design. The next day we received some "proofs" and liked the way they looked. We made a decision to use the gray shirt with the old LFD design on the front and the basic shirt was done. Tammy worked with High Peak to tweak several things on the back of the shirt including the "serving for 130 years" and the sponsors' logos until the final design was obtained. Once that was done it was time to work up an order and see how many we could sell.

As Tammy produced the "flyer" to post on our Facebook page and website, Captain Wright confirmed the sponsors. As soon as the information was posted the orders started to roll in. (Now I am not a Facebook person so I don't claim to know really what it means, but we had over 3,000 "hits" within the first 24 hours.) After about a week we were ready to place the order. We received approximately 2,100 shirts and hoodies on the initial order and most were sold before we actually received them from High Peak. When the shirts did arrive, the training room looked like something from QVC. We had shirts and hoodies everywhere and the administrative staff worked late into the evening to get ready for pick-ups the next morning.

As I write this article we have placed three additional orders and have sold over 2,500 shirts and hoodies. The demand is still strong but we have decided to stop where we are and not order more shirts. We need to close up shop for this year and get back to business as usual. I am not yet sure of the amount of money we raised, but the contribution to the M.A.A.M. fund should be substantial. (We should have a report in the December issue of the Flashpoint.) These monies will provide mammograms to lots of women who could not otherwise afford them and will help save lives. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's campaign and help make Lynchburg a better place to live, work and play!

Well, that about wraps it up for this Thanksgiving Edition of the Chief's Corner. Before I close, I want to say a special thanks to my assistant, Tammy Sage, for all of her hard work on this project. Captain Wright did yeoman's work with the sponsors and a lot of thanks also go to Ann Jenkins and the rest of the administrative staff for their assistance. When people are dedicated to helping others and work together, good things happen.

Until next month, remember that thought and keep up the excellent service. However, don't forget the most important rule of all: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

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## ANNIVERSARIES

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

### 29 Years

Jack Williams

### 26 Years

Chuck Taylor  
Keith Johnson

### 25 Years

Gitau Muhoro

### 22 Years

Fletcher Wimbush

### 16 Years

Rob Turner

### 12 Years

Jeannie O'Brien

## CERTIFICATIONS

### Mayday, Firefighter Down

Adam Barkley  
John Bowling  
Travis Calloway  
Courtney Hall  
Tyler Harrison  
Chad Hogan  
Roy Martin  
Rudy Pierre  
Ruth Anne Phillips  
Eric Smith  
Dana Stillman  
Brian Stinnette  
John Thompson  
Robert Tucker  
Adam Wagner  
Andrew White

### Structural Collapse Technician

Steven Evans  
Todd Glass  
Sean Regan

### Wide Area Search

Ben Barber  
Dakota Blanks  
Toby Bouyea  
Kenny Bunch  
Frankie Campbell  
Allen Carwile  
Earl Copes  
Steven Evans  
Jody Mayberry  
Phillip Meeks  
Neil Patterson  
Mary Phillips  
Jeremy Pillow  
Sean Regan  
Charles Schrader  
Donnie Smith  
Dana Stillman  
Brian Stinnette  
Lewis Thomas  
Nick Thomas  
Robert Tucker

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Birth Announcements

- Congratulations to Ryan and Elizabeth Lee on the birth of their son, Matthew Ryan. He was born September 30<sup>th</sup> and weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz.
- Congratulations to Chris and Heather Hiner on the birth of their twin boys, Caiden Ray and Callen Ryan. They were born October 28<sup>th</sup> and each weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz.

## 2014 POCKET SHIFT CALENDARS

The 2014 pocket shift calendars will be distributed to all fire stations in early December. These two-sided cards contain the 2014 shift calendar on one side, while the other side has a listing of addresses and phone numbers of the fire stations. Each employee will receive two pocket calendars; however, if you need additional cards, contact Tammy Sage at ext. 6341 (while supplies last).

## 2013 LFD CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Once again, New Life Laser Engraving is offering Lynchburg Fire Department Christmas ornaments. This year, the ornament depicts the 1871 Steam Powered Pumper.

The price of the ornament is \$10. For each ornament sold, New Life Laser Engraving will donate \$1 to The Fire Foundation. A sample of the ornament is available for viewing at Fire Administration in the Chief's Office.

To place your order, contact Tammy Sage in the Chief's Office (ext. 6341, or by email). The deadline to order is November 22<sup>nd</sup> (Payment is due at the time your order is placed). Ornaments will be available for pick up the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>.



## TRAINING REMINDERS

### Captain Promotional Process

The Fields Consulting Group will hold orientation sessions on the upcoming written exam for the Captain Promotional Process on November 7, 2013 at 1:00 p.m., and November 8, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fire Administration Training Room.

All eligible personnel who plan to participate in the upcoming Captain Promotional Process are encouraged to attend. (Since two sessions are scheduled, members should attend a session while off-duty.) If you have any questions, contact Deputy Chief Anthony Smith at 455-6358.

### EMS/Fire Skills Drills

Skills drills will be conducted November 12-14. Make ups will be held November 25-27.

### BREMS Education Night

BREMS Education Night will be held November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Lynchburg General Hospital in the First Colony Conference Room. The topic is Haz-Mat Life Support Review.

### EMSAT

The next EMSAT will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The topic is Rapid Trauma Assessment and Treatment of Blast Injuries.

### Protocols

Training will be conducted during the month of November regarding the new protocols that went into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be forthcoming.

### Advanced Paramedic

There will be an Advanced Paramedic Program meeting at Fire Administration on November 20-22 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

For more information about any of the upcoming training, contact Matt Millner at 455-6359.

## CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY!



WHEN  
YOU  
CHANGE  
YOUR  
CLOCK

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 3<sup>rd</sup>! Don't forget to "fall back" and set your clocks back one hour. Please also remind residents to make another change that could save their lives — changing the batteries in their smoke alarms.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Additionally, smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years.



The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. when most families are sleeping. Families can use the "extra" hour to test smoke alarms and plan and practice fire escape routes.

### Maintenance is the Key to Safety

Many people have smoke alarms that do not work. This isn't because the alarms were defective, but because they were not properly cared for. Like any other piece of electronic equipment, smoke alarms must be maintained properly. Having a smoke alarm that doesn't work can be a fatal mistake. Take care of your smoke alarms so they will function properly.

The first requirement for smoke alarm care is proper feeding - a smoke alarm will not work if the battery that powers it is dead. You should follow the manufacturer's directions for changing the batteries in your smoke alarms. If you have a lithium powered 10-year alarm you may need to change the battery only if the alarm fails a test. For most smoke alarms, however, you should change the battery at least once per year. Many people change the battery TWICE per year, when they change their clocks for Daylight Savings Time in the spring and fall. Use good quality alkaline batteries in your smoke alarms, and test all alarms after a new battery has been installed. Most current smoke alarms have low-battery alarms that "chirp" or beep when the alarm battery is low. If the low battery alert sounds, change the battery in the smoke alarm immediately. Testing a smoke alarm is very important. Smoke alarms are delicate electronic devices that operate around the clock, year after year. Sooner or later, some of them break down. The only way to know if a smoke alarm is still working is to test it. To test a smoke alarm, follow these steps:

- Push the test button on the alarm. (If you can't reach the alarm, use a broomstick to push the button.)
- If the alarm sounds, the alarm is OK. If the alarm does not sound, replace the battery and push the test button again.
- If the alarm still does not work after the battery is replaced, the alarm is defective. Replace it immediately.
- You should test the smoke alarms in your home at least once per month, or more often if the manufacturer's directions recommend it.

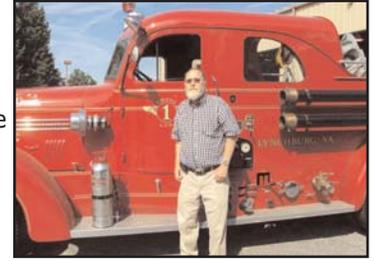
## RETIREEE RECONNECT

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.

### Sector Commander (Battalion Chief) Ricky Jennings

24 Years, 4 Months of Service  
(May 1, 1965 to  
October 1, 1990)

(Pictured right: Ricky Jennings  
poses beside ole Engine 1)



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

- The names of the men who were at Station 1 (A Shift) were especially memorable:  
George Washington Higginbotham  
Thomas Jefferson Bomar  
Calvin Coolidge McCormick  
Woodrow Wilson Jennings
- An experience I found interesting occurred at approximately 7:00 p.m. on a snowy winter evening while responding to an alarm. I was driving Assistant Chief C. O. Peters when we had a flat tire on our Pontiac. I pulled over right beside the Arlington Hotel on Court Street. I pushed the button that opened the trunk. The trunk was loaded with equipment and I had to move some of it to get the tire, lug wrench, and jack. I got the tire and lug wrench when Chief Peters said he would get the rest. I loosened the lug nuts but did not see the jack. Chief Peters was a tall, lean man, and I knew he was strong, but how strong I did not know. When he said I will take care of the rest, that only left the jack. He lifted the left rear of the Pontiac. I took the lug nuts off, pulled off the wheel, put the spare tire on, tightened the lugs and put the flat tire and lug wrench back in the trunk and we then continued on our response. Nothing was said, just as if this was routine. It was certainly not routine as far as I was concerned. In my mind, the only help he had was the fact that the asphalt rolled off to the right, leaving the car leaning to the right, with the direction of the vehicle leaning to his favor.

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

I miss fire suppression operations and the men and women that I worked with.

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

Acquire all of the training possible within the department and seek additional training anywhere else you can....never stop learning!



*Happy Thanksgiving*

## OPEN ENROLLMENT REMINDER

This year, every employee who is eligible and wants medical, dental, and vision coverage for themselves and family members must re-enroll in these plans during Open Enrollment from November 1-15, 2013.

Everyone will be required to submit an enrollment form and if family members are also being enrolled, legal documentation of the relationship to the employee must be provided. For example, to enroll your spouse, you will need to provide a copy of your marriage certificate and to enroll your children, you will need to provide a copy of their birth certificates.

All forms will need to be submitted directly to Human Resources no later than November 15.

## UNITED WAY

By: Ann Jenkins

Yes folks.... it's that time again!!!

Take a moment to reflect on those citizens who are not as fortunate as you. These folks quite often need help from us and other citizens and not just in an emergency. These citizens receive assistance from a variety of resources including the United Way. Now, more than ever, the United Way is seeing an increase in the number of people requesting assistance.

The United Way assists more than 84,000 people a year between Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell Counties, with 46,000 plus citizens in the City of Lynchburg receiving help as well. These are our neighbors, our customers, and our friends. Please consider helping them by donating to the United Way. Your contribution is tax deductible, and can be given as a one-time donation or deducted directly from your paycheck. All of the money stays locally; you can even allocate which resources you would like your contribution to benefit. Below are some interesting facts about supporting the United Way:

1. A donation of \$1 per week can provide healthy snacks to campers with autism or learning disabilities.
2. A donation of \$1 per week can offer food and assistance to a woman seeking safety from domestic violence.
3. A donation of \$5 per week can provide ten days of emergency food for up to 20 people.

The City of Lynchburg employees are the top financial contributors in the area who are not affiliated with a corporate sponsor like AREVA, BWXT, Genworth, etc. Please consider giving when you receive your pledge card at your station. Our department goal is to have 100 percent participation. Just one dollar per pay period would only be \$26 (pre-tax) per year!

All fire stations will receive an envelope with useful information about the United Way, etc., as well as a pledge card for each employee. I would like to ask that each of you return your Pledge Card to me by November 4<sup>th</sup> if you decide to contribute.

Thanks for all of your support now and throughout the year!! Thank you for your continued support and hopefully for another successful year!

## VOLUNTEER SALVATION ARMY'S RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN



Once again department members are asked to volunteer their time to help "ring the bell" for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Donations collected during the Christmas season are used to provide meals, clothing, and toys for the needy.

Our location will once again be Sam's Club. More information about the dates, available time slots, and how to sign up to volunteer will be distributed very soon!

Make plans now to volunteer your time to help provide for those who are less fortunate during this holiday season.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Exchange Club Pancake Jamboree

Date: November 1, 2013

Time: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: City Armory

### Open Enrollment

November 1 through 15

### Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 3<sup>rd</sup> — set your clocks back one hour!

### Communications Meeting

Date: November 7, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Fire Administration Training Room

### City Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed November 28-29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

### 2014 Communications Meeting Schedule

January	January 2, 2014
February	February 6, 2014
March	NO MEETING
April	April 3, 2014
May	May 1, 2014
June	June 5, 2014
July	NO MEETING
August	August 7, 2014
September	September 4, 2014
October	NO MEETING
November	November 6, 2014
December	NO MEETING