

# Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association

## Archived News 2010

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22 Dec 2010

## PA Director Honored with the 2010 PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute Presidents Award

Camp Hill PAmdashPA Director Honored with the 2010 PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute Presidents Award. Curtis Alleman CVVFA PA Director East Pennsboro School Board Director and Firefighter with East Pennsboro Fire Department and West Shore Bureau of Fire was honored on Monday evening November 22 2010 with the 2010 PFESI Presidents Leadership Award by PFESI President David Wyrwas during the PFESI annual dinner held at the Radisson in Camp Hill PA. President Wyrwas commented that Mr. Alleman was mentioned by multiple members of the institute and the community as a possible candidate for this Award. Curtis has given numerous hours to his community as a School Board Director in the East Pennsboro School District since 2007 and has served in numerous positions with the Fire and Emergency Service Community within the Local County State and Regional levels. The PFESI Presidents Leadership Award is given annually to an individual who has given dedication and leadership to both the emergency service community and also to their local community. Director Alleman was elected as a CVVFA Director representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the Annual Convention in August of this year.

24 Nov 2010

## Irishtown PA Fireman Recognized for 50 years of service to the CVVFA

On Sunday November 14 2010 PA Director Curtis Alleman and MD Director Bob Cumberland traveled to Irishtown Fire Company in Adams County PA to make a presentation to a new 50 year life member of the CVVFA. Robert L. Bolinstrong of Irishtown Fire Company was awarded a resolution and a gold life membership card for his 50 years of dedication to CVVFA.

21 Nov 2010

## March 2011 Booster Meeting Plans are Locked and Loaded

March 19-20 Booster Meeting in Enola PA Features Action Packed Weekend of Training Social Events and CVVFA Business-Don't Miss Its Saturday March 19 2011 900 am to 12 Noon

The First 15 Minutes CVVFA's new training class for all roadway responders. Learn how decisions made in the first minutes of an incident can control the scene allow responders to work safety and efficiently. Who should attend Firefighters Company Officers EMS Fire Police DOT Towing and Recovery Personnel. Instructor- Chief Allen Baldwin- Location Northeast Fire & Rescue Sta. 2 202 Third St Summerdale PA 17093 Cost is 5 includes one year membership dues in the CVVFA. RSVP March 9 to a hrefmailto:curtallemanHotmail.com

Harrisburg St. Patrick's Day Parade. Parade route and full info at a hrefhttp://www.harrisburgirishparade.com www.harrisburgirishparade.com

Cumberland County Vol. Firefighters Association is hosting a Hershey Bears Hockey Fundraiser at the Giant Center in Hershey PA. Tickets are 22.50 each and can be purchased from PA Director Curtis Alleman at a hrefmailto:curtallemanhotmail.com Order tickets by Feb. 19 2011 7pm – Until

The Chief Opens His House- Fire Chief Jim Derstine hosts a firefighters night at his personal residence 101 East Cumberland Road Enola PA. Jim's collection includes items from his worldwide career as a firefighter and Chief Officer. Chief Derstine last hosted the CVVFA several years ago. It was a night to remember. This event promises to be the same. Sunday March 20 2011 CVVFA Booster Meeting begins with a Luncheon followed by the meeting-Location Northeast Fire & Rescue Station 1 230 N. Enola Dr. Enola PA Hotel Information - Check back for location and rates

16 Oct 2010

## Taking Our Message to the Motorists-Members Staff PA Welcome Center Rest Stop During Fire Prevention Week

Special to CVVFA.org By Director Curtis Allema

Bob Cumberland and Curt Alleman traveled to Greencastle PA at the 81 Welcome Center on Interstate 81 for a fire prevention and traffic safety day sponsored by Rescue Hose Company of Greencastle a Charter CVVFA Member from 1901. The CVVFA Emergency Responder Safety Institute presented traffic safety videos along with handing out brochures about incident scene safety and Move Over laws. This was a great event with interaction among many motorists from around the country as they stopped during their travels through Pennsylvania. A special thanks to Citizens Fire Company of Enola PA for display tables and chairs along with the use of a department vehicle.

# Meet Your New President-Chief Greg Yost of the Hancock MD Fire Company

President Yost joined the Hancock Fire Company in 1975. He held most of the offices in operations and administration in the department. Most recently he chaired the 109th annual convention held in Hancock. President Yost graduated from Hagerstown Community College and University of Maryland with a B.A in Teachers Education. He completed many courses at the MD Fire and Rescue Institute and other fire related classes. He and his wife Mary Ann have been married 31 years. They have three children Dustin Derek and Danielle. A recent article in the local news paper gives the perspective on our new President's leadership ability. Fire chief enjoys brotherhood helping people

By JULIE E. GREENE

Greg Yost was 20 years old when he saw one of Hancock's biggest fires. As Sagles Restaurant a plumbing shop a beauty parlor a lawn mower repair shop and an apartment burned on the corner of Main and Church streets he helped rip pews out of nearby Hancock Presbyterian Church to save them in case the fire reached the church. It didn't but the 1975 fire took the whole corner Yost said. wanted to help he said. So after the fire he joined the Hancock Fire Co. Yost 55 is in his second year of his second stint as Hancock fire chief. He was first chief around the early 1990s. Whenever something goes wrong with anything it's pretty much the fire department and rescue squad that's called Yost said. In addition to helping people Yost enjoys the brotherhood and friendship of the fire company. You can go into any station and talk to people he said. Yost's day job is as a computer programmer for the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund for which he often commutes to Annapolis. Born and raised in Hancock Yost rode the bench for the baseball and basketball teams at Hancock High before graduating in 1973. It was during his children's years in middle and high school that Yost said he took a break from being fire chief and got involved with the athletic and band boosters clubs. He also coached in Hancock Little League and elementary and middle school basketball. He served as a Town Council member for eight years until he was defeated in a mayoral race in January 2005. Yost remained active with the fire department deciding to run for fire chief again in January 2009 because he said he wanted to update some policies and procedures and to help with training officers. The company has two new officers this year whom he is helping to train to replace merdquo Yost said. I got to work myself out of a job Yost said. Hancock Fire Co. has more than 60 members with 20 to 25 active members Yost said. The department averages eight to 10 firefighters per call Yost estimated. The westernmost fire company in Washington County its members know that on many calls they will be on their own for at least the

first 10 minutes of a fire. That's how long it takes the next closest fire department in Berkeley Springs W.Va. to get to Hancock he said. We've got to fend for ourselves until help arrives he said. After two sisters died in a February 2009 fire that was determined to be arson firefighters were asking themselves what they could have done differently Yost said. There was nothing they could have done any different because of the head start the fire had from the accelerants said Deputy State Fire Marshal Ed Ernst one of the investigators. Ernst said he told the firefighters that if they had tried to go up to the second floor to get to the girls they could have gotten seriously hurt or died because the stairs were already burned and could not have withstood their weight. In addition to healing from that fire they are dealing with a down economy in a town hurting since Rayloc laid off 260 people in March 2008. The community has continued to support the fire company's bingo nights which attract about 65 people Yost said. If it wouldn't be for the bingo we would have problems Yost said. Two of the fire company's biggest fundraising events are in the next few weeks. The Kelly-Miller Circus will be at Widmeyer Park on May 29 and the Hancock Firemen's Carnival is in the park from June 8 to 12. iPhoto and Story courtesy of the Hagerstown MD Herald Mail

10 Aug 2010

## CVVFA Wraps Up Successful Convention

The CVVFA has just wrapped up its extremely successful 109th annual convention in Hancock Maryland. The Hancock Volunteer Fire Company and its Chief and new CVVFA President Greg Yost are to be commended for arranging a first-rate convention with a mere six months lead time. Convention got underway at the Hancock MiddleSenior High School just after 9 AM on the morning of Thursday August 4th with the presentation of the colors by the Hagerstown Professional Firefighters and recitation of the National Anthem. Following this and deviating from the time it is normally presented President Walter Robertson presented to Past President Ray Mowen the E. Wade Thomas Member of the Year award. Ray who was only able to attend convention for a brief period due to other commitments was surprised and eternally grateful to have been named the recipient of this meaningful award. Following the reports of officers convention recessed mid-morning to enable us to gather at the nearby St. Peter's Catholic Church for the CVVFA's annual memorial service. There CVVFA Chaplain Charlie Barnhart remembered all members who had passed in the preceding year and offered a spirited extemporaneous sermon memorializing in particular the five Past Presidents lost this past year - Larry Smallwood Lee Holler Joe Bukowski Harry Alt and Robert Peck Diehl as well as Karen Brennan the daughter of Past President J. Allen Brennan. Following the memorial service we were treated to an all-you-can-eat spaghetti lunch at Hancock's station. The convention resumed Thursday afternoon and was highlighted by a keynote speech by Skip Gibson of Cherry Hill NJ an ISO field representative who educated attendees about the latest developments in community fire ratings. Thursday's events were topped off with a Hootenanny picnic at Hancock's huge brand new pavilion located down multiple dirt roads in the middle of nowhere. There we were treated to barbecued chicken quarters from the largest chickens ever seen with sides of tender baked potatoes and beans. The evening closed with a return by many of us to the convention headquarters hotel the Berkeley Springs Best Western Inn. This is the fourth time the Best Western has hosted us for conventions in Berkeley Springs or Hancock since its opening in 2002 and we appreciate their continuing to welcome us with fair rates and good treatment as well as their new breakfast featuring fresh-made Belgian waffles. Friday at convention marks President's Council and Training Day. At the President's Council representatives from the firemen's associations of a host of states in the mid-Atlantic gather to share news and information. This year was no different with representatives from the States and Commonwealths of Maryland Pennsylvania Virginia West Virginia Delaware New Jersey and New York in attendance. Common themes echoed by many centered upon the toll the economy is taking on us all and how we all need to do more with less. The Maryland delegation in particular is to be commended for its continued excellent representation that included representatives



from MSFA as well as MIEMSS the Shock Trauma Center MSP the MD State Fire Marshals Office MEMA and MFRI. At Training Day a cadre of more than 25 local fire and special police officers gathered for our signature Highway Safety and Flagger training including didactic and practical components under the tutelage of Chief Allen Baldwin. The business of the convention drew to a close Friday evening with our annual banquet hosted by Hancock's Park-N-Dine restaurant. The Park-N-Dine feted us with a huge buffet meal enjoyed by all that included salad roast turkey roast beef roast pork pasta steamed shrimp and an array of veggies that really set the high water mark for CVVFA banquets. Hanover Virginia Division Chief Eddie Buchanan spoke about leadership in the fire service reminding us that it takes the leadership qualities that we each possess to make a difference. The J.R. Haines and Kenny Butts Memorial Scholarship winners William Ball IV of Williamsport MD and Lindsay Carns of Newport PA then thanked the Association - this marking the first time both scholarship winners have attended a convention. CVVFA Queen Erin Drumheller was awarded the Chief Gary Happy Jack Easton Youth Leadership Award sponsored by Kevin Greenlee of the Fire Store and received a leather fire helmet. In a moving tribute Joe Bukowski was posthumously awarded the new Joe Bukowski Highway Safety Educator award which was received by Joe's widow Karen. The evening closed with the installation of officers for the upcoming year. Saturday brought good weather for the CVVFA's annual grand parade through downtown Hancock followed by hot dogs drinks and the award of prizes at Widmeyer Park which also officially brought the activities of the 109th annual convention to a close. By Howard Cohenem

05 Aug 2010

## Convention Kicks Off in Hancock MD

One Hundred and two representatives kicked off the 2010 CVVFA Convention in Hancock MD amid a mixture of celebration and sadness. Upbeat business meetings paused for the annual memorial service that honor the members who answered the final alarm last year. That list included five past presidents. A full afternoon featured Keynote Speaker Skip Gibson from ISO with a review of the changes in the ISO grading scheduled. The day was topped off by a picnic at Hancock Fires new picnic shelter. The convention continues tomorrow August 6.

02 Aug 2010

## Past President Robert Peck Diehl Dies

Past President Peck Diehl 1971 died July 15 2010 at age 97 following a long illness. Peck as he was known to his friends was born on February 11 1913 at Deer Park MD. Interment was in the Potomac Memorial Gardens Keyser.

He was a 1931 graduate of Keyser High School. Peck was employed as a brakeman with the B & O Railroad and retired from the Chessie System after a long career. Peck joined the Vigilant Reel and Hose Company 1 the predecessor of the Keyser Fire Department where he served for over one half a century. He joined the CVVFA in 1953 and was elected President in 1971. Past President Diehl was best known for his Chairmanship of the Sparky Fire Department program that incorporated the National Fire Protection Associations groundbreaking fire prevention education for children. Under his leadership Sparky or Junior Fire Departments were established in elementary schools throughout the Mid Atlantic States with each department required to appear each year at the CVVFA Convention to present their results. Minutes show Peck was a strict taskmaster when it came to the required lessons each Sparky Department was required to present. It was this work that helped established the CVVFA as a national leader in children's fire safety education in the mid 20s. Until illness prevented traveling Peck was a fixture at CVVFA meetings and conventions. He was never bashful about stating his opinion on the meeting room floor and was respected by young and old members alike.

15 May 2010

## Past President Harry Alt Dies After Long Illness

Harry Alt Past Captain Chief of the Keyser WV Fire Department died late Friday May 14 2010 of cancer. He had fought the disease for 20 months with courage and valor. Harry joined the CVVFA in 1976. He served as President twice in 1983 and 1991. Past President Alt retired almost 2 years ago from the Mineral County WV school system as an Assistant Principal. He pledged to devote time to the CVVFA as an instructor for the Emergency Responder Safety Institute. Shortly after he returned from teaching highway scene safety in Colorado he fell ill. Harry was elected Director from WV after his last term as President. He held the office until his death. He served the CVVFA in many capacities including membership on the Scholarship Committee which he chaired for a number of years. Past President Alt was a most faithful member for 34 years. Until illness limited his travel he attended almost every CVVFA meeting and event. Harry was vastly proud of the Keyser Fire Department and his tenure as commanding officer. He was a member of Keyser's Street Drill Team and marched in CVVFA convention parades throughout the years. In addition to his fire service involvement Harry was a leader in the Masonic Lodge and served as an official in the Masonic hierarchy in West Virginia. He is survived by his wife Jeane. Expressions of sympathy may be mailed to Mrs. Jeane Alt Box 675 Keyser WV 26726. A link to the full obituary may be found by clicking on the title of this article.

# Reckless Conduct Endangers America's Fire Service –Fire Service Reputation Management White Paper Examines Issue

Reckless and inappropriate conduct by a small minority of the nation's fire service is eroding the high moral ground occupied by firefighters says a White Paper sponsored by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association CVVFA a century-old organization dedicated to enhancing communication and continuing education among the fire service. The contents of the White Paper represent a distillation of several fire service leadership meetings that identified a series of social cultural and ethical issues impacting the fire service nationwide that demand increased awareness. The White Paper is intended as a wake-up call to the fire service. The detrimental impact from fire service members who engage in unethical immoral inappropriate criminal or other activities reflects back not just to these individuals but to their departments and communities and to the fire service as a whole. Recognizing that the actions of a small minority of bad actors can have grievous widespread consequences the fire service as a whole must be increasingly vigilant in policing itself. Through a combination of enhanced and improved internal controls increased vigilance and greater acceptance of personal responsibility perhaps including but not limited to abiding by a Code of Ethics the fire service can ensure that it remains true to its roots and heritage of protecting and serving this great nation. The Fire Service Reputation Management White Paper clearly identifies these individuals and behaviors in a clear and cogent manner articulates some excellent solutions and clamors for a Code of Ethics as the next logical step for our profession. We may never have the opportunity again and I urge all fire service leaders to develop establish disseminate abide and enforce a Fire Service Code of Ethics said Kelvin Cochran United States Fire Administrator. Copies of the White Paper are available at [www.cvvfa.org](http://www.cvvfa.org). In the next several weeks the CVVFA will launch a website that will chronicle inappropriate conduct by members of the fire service. The website will serve to raise awareness of danger to the reputation of the fire service and will advocate for a code of ethics and standards for proper behavior. The CVVFA wishes to thank Saint Joseph's University Graduate Public Safety Program and Oklahoma State University's Fire Protection Publications for their support in developing the White Paper. Click on the title of this article to download a PDF copy of the White Paper.

07 Mar 2010

## CVVFA Receives Prestigious Award

Saturday March 6 2010-The Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association Emergency Responder Safety Institute was honored with an Everyone Goes Home Seal of Excellence Award at the Safety Summit sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg MD. President Walter Robertson and ERSI Director of Training Jack Sullivan were surprised by the award presented in front of some of the nation's top firefighter safety professionals. The award recognizes efforts by organizations to reduce injuries to firefighters. The "Seal of Excellence" is the third national award received by the CVVFA for its work protecting emergency responders on the highway.

18 Feb 2010

## Past President Joe Bukowski Dies Suddenly

Joseph W. Bukowski Past President 1998 died suddenly at his winter home in Clearwater Florida on Thursday February 18 2010. He was 57. Joe joined the CVVFA in 1979 as one of the original group of members from the Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Company of Newark DE who joined the CVVFA that year. Joe was a retired teacher having spent most of his career teaching history in the Cecil County MD school system. At Aetna where he was a life member Joe served as a firefighter EMT in his early years and later as a fire police officer. He served as Financial Secretary of the company until he moved to Florida during the winter months. In Delaware Joe served as President of the New Castle County Fire Police Association and later was elected President of the Delaware State Fire Police Association. At the time of his death Joe was the Chief Financial Officer of the CVVFA Emergency Responder Safety Institute. Joe served as President of the CVVFA in 1998 and was a Life Member at the time of his death. He was instrumental in establishing the J.R. Haines and the Kenny Butts Memorial Scholarships for the CVVFA that provide assistance for worthy students entering the public safety field. Joes wife Karen daughter Amanda one grandson and his father survive him. A celebration of Joes life was held at Aetna Hall in Newark DE. Joe left instructions that he wanted a party not a funeral so his family honored him in a place where he put many hours of work as Bingo Chairman for Aetna and enjoyed leisure time at social functions. Over 200 of Joes friends attended many dressed in Joes trademark a Hawaiian shirt.

05 Feb 2010

## Mutual Aid Has Arrived! Hancock to Host 2010 CVVFA Convention

Hancock MD Fire Company announced it would host the 2010 CVVFA Convention less than one day after Harrisburg PA advised the Association it was cancelling the event. The Convention dates remain the same August 4-7 2010. In an email to fellow CVVFA Officers Hancock's Chief Greg Yost CVVFA First Vice President invited the Association to hold the 109th Annual Convention. President Walter Robertson called Chief Yost and advised him I'd graciously accept Hancock Fire Department's invitation and thank them for stepping forward to host the convention at their hometown. President Robertson quickly accepted the invitation in order to allow Hancock FD to begin planning the event. He praised Chief Yost for his leadership. Greg provided real leadership in stepping up when the chips were down he said. Our members owe a debt of gratitude to the Hancock Fire Company. Normally CVVFA Conventions take at least one and often two years to plan. Hancock members will be very busy in the next several months dealing with a compressed time frame. Luckily Hancock hosted the 103th Convention in 2004 and knows how to host a great event. Check a href<http://www.cvvfa.org>www.cvvfa.org regularly for updates and registration information. We will have it here as soon as arrangements are underway.



04 Feb 2010

## Harrisburg PA Pulls the Plug on the 2010 Convention, CVVFA Left With Few Options

In an unprecedented move the committee formed to host the 2010 CVVFA Convention cancelled the event in Harrisburg. With less than six months until the scheduled date the CVVFA is in a very difficult position with no alternative plan for the 109th Annual Convention. The combined committee representing fire service interests in and around the city of Harrisburg PA voted to cancel. The group had previously signed a contract agreeing to host the convention. Members of the CVVFA Convention Liaison Committee were present when the committee decided to cancel at February 3 2010 meeting. Earlier Harrisburg asked McConnellsburg PA who originally requested the 2010 date to delay their convention to 2011. McConnellsburg graciously agreed to this change. Text of the email follows This is just to let you all know the CVVFA Convention 2010 Committee last night voted to cancel the convention for this year. Reasons cited but not limited to were complete unknown about any cooperation that the new city administration might give us. A last minute change from the set agenda and difficulty with parade A last minute change and difficulty with Thursday night picnic Lack of interest in fundraising Lack of involvement with the city's 2010 committee

After weighing all the options and the current situation and a possible further deterioration by August the members of the committee present voted to pull out of the convention. Representatives of the CVVFA were present and understand our plight. When I get a chance I'll finish the minutes and as soon as any outstanding finances are resolved the checkbook will be closed out.

26 Jan 2010

## Past President Lee C. Holler Dies Service Set for Friday January 29, 2010

Chief Lee C. Holler Past President of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemens Association 1999 died today Tuesday January 26 2010 in Winchester VA. He served the CVVFA continuously for 60 years having joined in 1950. Holler was a highly respected Chief Fire Officer at the Reagan National Airport in Washington DC prior to his retirement. He was a member of the Shawnee Fire Company of Winchester.

Services for Past President Holler are scheduled at 1000 AM Friday January 29th at the Shawnee Fire Company 2210 Valor Drive Winchester Virginia 22601. Phone 540-662-0855. A reception at the station follows the service. A precession route from Shawnee to the Clearbrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department will take place after the reception. At Clearbrook a full military ceremony will be held and Lees gear will be laid to rest at the station. Past President Holler has donated his remains to science. Click on the title of this article for the Obituary.

03 Jan 2010

## Ailing Members Give Thumbs Up for 2010- Past President Harry Alt, Chief Crawford Wiestling and Chief Jack Peltier Say They Are Feeling Better

New Years holiday telephone calls brought good news from three of CVVFAs senior members Past President Harry Alt of Keyser WV Chief Crawford Wiestling of Prior Lake MN and Chief Jack Peltier of Marlboro MA. All three men have been battling serious illnesses and all three are improving and look forward to returning to their work with the CVVFA. Harry expects to be in attendance at the Board of Directors Meeting. Jack who is still in rehabilitation following a serious illness over the last two months pledges to be in the Responder Safety booth at the FDIC in April in Indianapolis. Crawford who was under the weather during most of 2009 now is feeling much better. Following scheduled eye surgery later this month he vows to be back helping with various CVVFA projects. It is great to hear the optimism these members have about their improving health and their intentions to see their fellow members again. Click on the Camera Icon below to see Past President Alts