



NOVEMBER 2009

NUMBER 37

WELCOME

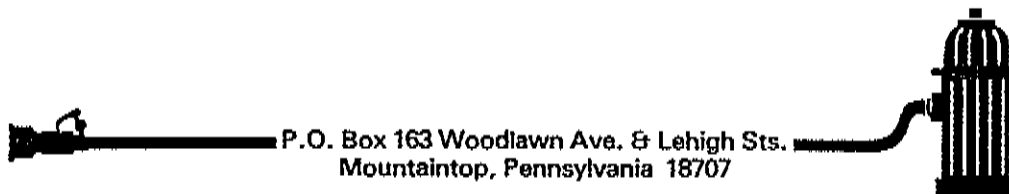
Welcome to the 37th edition of *Between Alarms*. This edition has lots of news about what is happening in our organization and at the firehouse. We hope you enjoy catching up on our activities.

FIRE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT LOANS PAID OFF

Because of the low interest rates that we are able to earn on our savings (2% or less), in August we decided to pay off two of our fire truck loans. The loans were obtained through the Pennsylvania Volunteer Loan Assistance Program at a rate of 2%. Since we could not safely invest our money at a higher rate, we paid off the loans on our 1997 and 2001 Pierce pumpers. The total paid off was \$41,454.08. We used the money from our Bazaar profit and some savings to pay off the loans. Our three pumpers are now paid in full.

In addition, we paid off a separate loan we had with PNC bank in the amount of \$8,861.59 for the rescue tool system on the rescue truck. This loan was at 6.5% interest and had two years remaining.

With these loans paid, our only loan is on our 1994 Pierce Heavy Duty Rescue Truck which has a remaining balance of \$101,735.00 and just under ten years remaining to pay. This loan is also from the state program with an interest rate of 2%.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Todd Wagaman is new to Mountaintop and to our community but has years of experience in the fire service. Todd and his family relocated to Mountaintop in March of 2008 from Palmer Township outside of Easton. Todd served as Assistant Chief of the Palmer Municipal Fire Department. With a new baby in the house, Todd took a few months off before he made his way to the firehouse to join our organization. After he did, Todd jumped in with both feet.

Todd became involved in all of our tasks, always agreeing to help with a smile. He has shared his knowledge and experience. During the Bazaar, which was his first, he didn't know what to expect. He cheerfully volunteered to do some of the jobs that nobody is thrilled with. Because of his experience and personality, he was voted First Assistant Chief in our August elections.

We are pleased that Todd has become part of our team and thank him for being part of what we do.

OUR LEADERSHIP

In August we held our annual election for officers. Our officers are:

Dave Hourigan	President
Phil Holbrook	Vice President
Shawn Prohaska	Secretary
James M. Cornelius	Treasurer
Tim McGinnis	Trustee
John Kim	Trustee
Doug Guignet	Trustee
Peter J. Kohl	Fire Chief
Todd Wagaman	1 st Asst. Chief
Jared Aigeldinger	2 nd Asst. Chief
Josh Antosh	Captain
Allen Gillman	Captain

FURNISHINGS NEEDED

We are in need of some furniture for the TV area in the firehouse. We can put a few gently used couches and chairs to good use. If you have any furniture you may want to donate, call Dave Hourigan at 715-7750.

10th ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The response to our 10th Annual Fund Drive titled “*Neighbors You Can Count On*” has been excellent. We received \$ 34,105.00 from 995 donors.

These numbers are only slightly less than the total contributions and number of donors in 2008. Considering the times, we consider the response excellent. More evidence of the generous and caring community in which we live.

The majority of funds have been placed in savings, as we plan for significant expenditures in the years ahead.

KEVIN FOLEY PRESENTED PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

Members of the Hose Company surprised Kevin Foley with the presentation of a plaque acknowledging his contribution of the Historic Mountaintop Hotel to the Hose Company at the dinner that followed the 5th Annual Cavanaugh’s Golf Tournament for the benefit of the Hose Company and the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library. President Dave Hourigan presented the plaque, praising Kevin for his generosity not only to the Hose Company, but to the entire community since he has operated Cavanaugh’s. Dave stated that the future rental of the building will create a significant income stream for the Hose Company in the years ahead. Kevin was appreciative of the plaque and applause.

This year’s Golf Tournament had over 30 sponsors and 90 golfers enjoyed the day. The tournament raised \$2,663.00 for each organization, bringing the total raised for each organization to over \$10,000.00 since the tournament started.

NEW AIR PACKS PLACED IN SERVICE

In October we received delivery of eighteen new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and related equipment. The air packs are manufactured by Scott Manufacturing and they contain the latest technology and safety enhancements available to the fire service. They are programmed with a second generation of technology to perform safety and tracking functions for the firefighters. In fact, our delivery was the first order that the dealer delivered of the new equipment.

The SCBA contains both an interactive communication device and tracking devices so the firefighters can be accounted for on scene, warned of imminent danger or send a manual or automatic distress signal if they are down. The devices interact with a software program installed on our laptop computers. In addition, a separate piece of equipment called a Pak-Tracker was purchased. This equipment will locate a signal from an inactive / downed firefighter and lead the operator directly to the firefighter.

The cost of the SCBAs and equipment was \$102,371.00. Fortunately we were successful in obtaining a Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$76,237.00 to use toward this purchase. The balance of the money was paid from the Hose Company and Relief Association savings.

The eighteen SCBAs are placed on our three pumpers providing protection for each seating position on the trucks. We still have to replace the six SCBAs on our Rescue by next year. We have applied for another Homeland Security grant for the purchase. If we are not successful, we have the funds necessary to purchase the equipment

RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Annually we receive funds from the state that are to be used to provide for the safety and welfare of our members. The funds are derived from a tax on insurance premiums paid to companies that are not based in Pennsylvania.

This year's check was for \$26,700.00, which is less than prior years' levels. A new formula has been established to determine the allocations and most fire companies received less money in 2009.

The Relief Association funds are used to pay our health and accident insurance policy premium and this year we used \$22,421.00 for the purchase of our SCBA equipment. In addition, we are purchasing several portable radios and pagers to outfit the Fire Police.

FIRE POLICE REINSTATED

In the past few months through the efforts of our Fire Chief Pete Kohl and Fairview Township Police Chief Joe Intelicato, our fire police unit has reformed and will soon be assisting us when we respond to calls. Among the duties of the fire police will be to assist with traffic control at fire or accident scenes with may include road closing, assist in weather emergencies, help with traffic control at community events and assist the police department when needed.

Long time member Dave Smith will head the fire police. Several former members have reactivated their membership to serve as fire police persons. They are: Dawn Rhone, Ray Loucks, Dwight Nichols, Henry Nork and Dan Titus.

We are outfitting the fire police with necessary safety gear, portable radios, pagers, flashlights, and collapsible traffic control safety cones. The cost of this equipment is being partially paid from funds from a state grant that we received earlier this year and the balance with Relief Association funds.

ANNUAL BAZAAR HUGE SUCCESS

Though we had rain Friday night, Saturday and Sunday were beautiful days bringing out huge crowds. As a result, our profit was \$33,856.30 which is nearly \$4,000.00 more than last year.

All of our food stands were sold out during the dinner hour on Sunday. Our Auction had its best profit ever of \$6,264.00. Our Basket tent was so busy we ran out of tickets and had to improvise to meet the demand. The Big Ticket returns were very strong resulting in a profit of over \$5,000.00 after expenses.

As always, a small army of volunteers turned out to help for the weekend. Our special thanks and recognition to the members of the Mountaintop Family Center, the Kiwanis and the Rotary Clubs for returning to work with us again this year.

Part of the reason that our profit increased is because this year we enjoyed generous cash contributions from the following businesses and person that offset some of our fixed expenses. These businesses are: Preferred Travel; McCune Funeral Services, Inc.; and The Triangle Pharmacy. Township resident Anneliese Moghul also made a contribution.

In reality, the Bazaar likely would not happen, and certainly would not be nearly as profitable without the contributions of literally hundreds of businesses and individuals throughout our community and from the overall area. All of the prizes on our Big Ticket are donated, as is all of the merchandise in the Auction. The Basket Auction is made possible by contributions of cash and merchandise. We would like to recognize and thank all that contribute so we are including a list below. The list is extensive. Please be sure that you mention something to these businesses and people when you see them, thanking them for helping, especially in these hard economic times.

A.J. Roofing	Brass Buckle	Constable Dwight Nichols
Abe N. Solomon, Inc.	Broadway Tavern	Cornell Iron Works
Abe's Hot Dogs	Burger King	Cracker Barrel
Act Towing	Burick's Service Station	Craig Buckey
Airbon / Linda Weber	Button Oil Company	Crest Cleaners
Anita Herron	Cardinal Glass	Crestwood Pharmacy
Auto Bus	Carone's Market	Crossroad's Inn
Ayers Towing Service, Inc.	Cavanaugh's Grille	Dave & Sharon Hourigan
B&B Mechanical	Centurion Abstract	David Blight School of Dance
Baab Optical	Chalet Restaurant	Davis Manor
Baab's Jewelry Showcase	Charlie & Donna Engel	Design Works
Barry's Beauty	Chili's	Dr. Lawrence A. Sherry
Barry's Floral	China II	Dr. Lisa Dean
Biernacki Eye Associates	Citizens Bank	Dunkin Donuts – Mt. Top
Blasi Printing	C-K Alarms	Ed & Betty Deets
Blue Ridge Pizza	Coldwell Banker Rundle RE	El Humidor

Elegant Cleaners
Evans Roadhouse
Fairchild Semiconductor
Firefighters Wives
First Keystone National Bank
Frank & Adeline Orloski
Frank & Debbie Orloski
Friedman Electric
Fundraising USA
Genetti's – Wilkes-Barre
George Burger & Sons
Gino's Fairview Shoe Store
Glen Summit Residents
Gracedale Builders
Grotto Pizza
Hair Solutions
Hallmark Homes
Historic Stage Coach Inn
Huntsinger's Karate
Indalex
Invisible Fencing of NE PA
Jack & Helene Rosenzweig
Januzzi Pizza
JE Cycle & Sports
Jerry Lisman
Joe Thomas Construction
Joe Yale
John & Sterling Dougherty
John Kurovsky O.D.
Jon Walko Construction
Joseph B. Farrell, Esq.
Journal Mountaintop
Junie G's Family Restaurant
Kathleen Jolley
Kelly Guignet
King's Pizza

KNBT Bank
Kohler Bright Star
Komagi Sushi
LaNapoli
Laurel Prohoska
M&T Bank
Mary Barley
Mary's Family Restaurant
McDonald's
Melissa Barley
Michael Mootz Candies
MLB Advertising
Modern The Floor Store, Inc.
Mohegan Sun
Mountain Freeze
Mountain Peaks
Mountaintop Animal Hospital
Mountaintop Eagle
Mountaintop Interiors
Northeast Sports & Fitness
Orloski's Car Wash
P&D Pet Supply
Pennstar Bank
Pepsi Bottling
Pepsico/Quaker
Perkin's
Personal Touch
Housekeeping
Philadelphia Subs
Phillips Lighting
Pinnacle Roofing
PNC Bank
Preferred Travel
Price Chopper
Red Lobster
Reilly's Garage

Rich Finn – A.B.I.S.
Rise & Shine Restaurant
RJ Langan Construction
Robert J. Barley & Sons
Rose Termini
Russ Marhold
Sam McGovern
Sanitary Ice
Screen Printing USA
Sharon's Subs
Sitko's Barn
SK Sales
Sledziewski Excavating
Sonic
St. Jude Parish
Steinbrenner Sales & Service
Steve Shannon Tire
Subway – Mt. Top
Sugar's Tearoom
Sunshine Markets
Target
The Augustine Family
The Auto Shop
The Beauty Shoppe
The Garren Family
The Meating House
The Pool Guys
The Powerhouse
Tony's Pizza
Triangle Pharmacy
Tuxedo Junction
Wegmans
Weis Markets
Whistle Stop Pizza
Whitewater Challengers
Wychock's Beverage

Bud Strauss/Glick Fire Equipment
Building Blocks Learning Center
Burke's Mountain View Printing
Century 21 Smith Hourigan Group
Glen Summit Springs Bottling Company
Kurlancheck Home Furnishings

Lewith & Freeman Real Estate
Mountaintop Historical Society
Robert C. Williams Insurance Agency
South Mountain Veterinary Hospital
State Farm Insurance / Carolyn Zabinski

We believe our list is complete. However, if we missed anyone please let us know so we can include you in our next newsletter.

CAVANAUGHS'S IMPROVEMENTS

Once the Bazaar was behind us, we set out to make some improvements to the exterior of the Historic Mountaintop Hotel that was donated to us by Kevin Foley on December 31, 2008. The exterior had not had any work done to it in years, so our work was cut out for us.

Member Mike Herron, who is a contractor by trade, took the lead in laying out what needed to be done, ordering the materials, and having things in place for the planned work weekends. In preparation for the work weekends, Mike organized the power washing of the exterior, and made small repairs or sealing the stucco where needed.

On the third weekend in August members showed up in mass and all the exterior stucco was painted by the end of the day. Ten gallons of paint turned into 40 gallons for the stucco. Additionally, repair work and scrapping was started on all the trims, and this work continued for several work sessions. It was decided to strip the half finished stucco off the support columns on the porches and restore them to painted wood. It was a huge undertaking in pulling nails, scrapping and painting. Now mostly complete, the columns look great. Before the winter we hope to replace the second floor porch railings and the windows on the North Main St. side of the second floor. A small area of wood siding will also be covered with vinyl.

All of the work done has been accomplished with volunteer time. Equipment and lifts were also borrowed from businesses to do the work. And, of course our fire trucks with complements of ladders were put into use in the process.

OTHER NEWS

- Thank you to Karen H. Spiece, VMD of Mountaintop Animal Hospital for conducting our Annual Rabies Clinic in June. 174 dogs and cats presented themselves for their shots. We made a profit of \$870.00 for the day.
- In early October we conducted our annual fire safety week visits to Fairview Elementary and the day care centers located in the township. On Halloween night we were out in force distributing 1200 glow necklaces to the children of the township. Our thanks to the Township Supervisors for paying for the necklaces.
- Our thanks also to the Mountaintop Welcome Wagon who provided bake goods and treats for our members to enjoy at our monthly meeting. We appreciate the Club recognizing us and being supportive of what we do.

THE ALARMS

In the period of May 1st – October 31, 2009 we answered 47 calls for assistance. The calls were as follows: Motor Vehicle Accidents – 8; Vehicle Fires – 8; Automatic Fire Alarms – 3; Wires Down – 3; Smoke Investigations – 2; Assist EMS – 2; Gas Leak – 2; CO Alarm – 1; Transformer Fire – 1; Traffic Assist – 1; Structure Fire – 1; Power Outage – 1; and Garbage Fire – 1. We assisted or stood by for the Wright Township Fire Department 12 times and one time for the Rice Township Fire Department. Interestingly, none of these calls were in the month of September.

The structure fire involved a residence in Bow Creek Estates. There was extensive fire damage to the finished basement with significant heat and smoke damage throughout the house. The call went to two alarms, summoning the Wright, Rice and Dorrance Fire Departments. The Hanover Twp. Fire Department also responded to serve as our Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) at the scene. A RIT team stands by at a scene to be available to immediately assist if there is a firefighter(s) in trouble within the structure so they can perform any rescue that may be necessary.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Through these trying financial times I am very pleased that the momentum of support for our organization has barely been affected. The Annual Fund Drive has enjoyed continued success in both the number of donors and amount donated. The Bazaar was hugely successful considering that it rained Friday night. All of our other revenue sources/fundraisers have also remained constant. I believe this speaks well for our community.

In our May newsletter we listed all of the businesses and individuals that provided food and beverages for the firefighters during the April brush fire. Afterwards I had several people tell me that they would be glad to help if we needed similar help in the future. Thinking about this, I thought that people should know how many businesses and individuals contribute merchandise or money for our Annual Bazaar, so we have included a listing of the donors. Although I don't know the exact dollar value of the donations, it is in the neighborhood of \$15,000.00 between the Merchandise Auction, Basket Auction and Big Ticket, along with the cash donations or merchandise donations directly used in the Bazaar. Many thanks to all. My request is that you acknowledge all of these businesses/individuals as you visit/patronize them in the months ahead.

Ninety seven cents. That is the amount of money that was found on the ground and turned in to me during our Bazaar cleanup. The money was given to me by 4 different people. With all the controversy happening in the county, I think it is refreshing to hear this story. There are many people who hold themselves to a high standard of integrity and ethics. At the firehouse

firehouse we do strive to do the right thing in all that we do. Every dollar we receive we treat it as our own, planning to use it in the most economical way possible. Be assured that this will not change, as we value the trust that you place in us and we know the importance of holding ourselves to high standards.

My thanks to all of the "Men" who have worked on Cavanaugh's over the past months. The building is looking better all the time. I am proud of the "Men" for the time they have devoted and the job they have done.

Another year is closing. Certainly seems to have passed quickly.

My best wishes for the holidays ahead.

Be safe in all that you do.

Dave Hourigan